

What Ever Happened to the Upsilon Xi Alumni Association?

Joe Giove, UXAA President

"What ever happened to the UXAA?" It's a question that I have a personal stake in assuring that people never ask. It's also a question I see other Lee clubs' alumni asking about their alumni organizations. While clubs seem to be continually de-emphasized on campus (restructuring of induction, recent cancellation of tap night, etc.), this trend has also trickled down to alumni participation. Many alumni feel disconnected from the activities of their brothers and sisters at Lee, and the clubs conversely do less and less to involve them. It has been happening for years.

In a way, this separation is normal and healthy. After all, the purpose of a university is to prepare a student for the real world. Once a person graduates and leaves campus, the question arises, "Why have strong connections or ties to the past?" It is normal and healthy for graduates to leave Upsilon and Lee and establish themselves in the "real world," drawing their identity in Christ from a greater source than the Black and Gray and its friends and memories.

This is good.

However, part of the fundamental nature of a Christian's heart is the concept of "giving back." We have been given much by God; consequently, we give freely to those who ask. It should be the desire of every alumnus of Upsilon not merely to be content to have drawn on the resources and benefits that Upsilon provided, but also to assure that other young men and women have the same opportunities. I believe this means that all alumni should—to the degree that God allows them—participate in the club's alumni association to ensure that this mission is achieved. I do that . . . and I encourage others to do so as well.

In a little over a year, the club will begin deliberations to determine who will be considered for the next Executive Committee for the UXAA. At this point, prospective workers are few and the UXAA—in the vernacular of Upsilon—"has a need." What we are looking for is alumni who want to get involved, who care about the mission of the UXAA, and who want to do things rather than *talk* about doing things. This isn't about money; it's about involvement. To most of us, Hickory is either a memory or a lifestyle. If Hickory to you is indeed a lifestyle, then I encourage you to get involved in the UXAA. Here are a few ways you can do that:

- TS Log in to the Upsilon Web page frequently for news. View the guestbook and the all-new UXAA message boards.
- TS Pay your UXAA dues. They're only \$25 and you get your name placed on the Upsilon Web site.
- TS Send an e-mail with ideas for events, service projects, ways we can become more involved, or just a message saying, "I want to serve and be better connected."
- TS Attend the annual alumni breakfast

I do not believe we will end up like other organizations, nor do I believe we will one day be content to be average. The very thought that the word "mediocre" and "Upsilon" would be mentioned together—to me is repulsive. I call on everyone associated with Upsilon Xi to consider becoming more involved. In the end, we may be the only club left standing, but as I see it, we've been alone at the top already for a very long time. Staying there takes hard work



The 2004 Alumni Breakfast was a well attended event, with over 100 alumni and members joining together for breakfast and fellowship.

Upsilon State of the Club

Tony McLeod, 49th President of Upsilon

Brotherhood, tradition, unity, Hickory . . . those are some of the words that come to mind when I think about Upsilon. Over these past two semesters I have had the pleasure to be the president of Upsilon. The feeling of being called "Big Rim 49" by the club is a feeling I can not even describe in words. Even though the responsibilities kept me really busy, I still had some time to sit back and just take a look at the club. The way the guys come together, especially at difficult times is something amazing to watch.

In the fall of 2004 the club had our annual Block Party. It was once again a very successful event. Something that was different from past years is that we had many of our own guys on the stage performing. Josh Savage brought some hip hop to the stage, then C.J. Blount closed the night with an incredible set of songs from his own album, "Through it All." As usual when C.J. hits the stage, the presence of the Lord was all over the place.

The fall also witnessed the 42nd Sadie Hawkins at O'Bannon Farm. The event was put on by Senior Member B.J. Johnson. Once again Sadies was a success with great music, a wonderful fireworks show, and of course the key to a great Sadies, enough chicken for everybody. Soon after Sadies the club had the annual Homecoming Breakfast, which was put together by Rich Wilkerson. President of the Alumni Association Joe Giove was selected as the Distinguished Alumnus of the Year. At the breakfast we were honored with the presence of our first president, Dr. Duran Palmertree.

Now to the spring semester, which has by far been one of my favorite semesters of my time in the club. It was a chance for a lot of young leaders in the club to emerge. Four members of the fall Executive Committee (Vice President Hermilo Jasso III, Senior Member B.J. Johnson, Alumni Coordinator Rich Wilkerson, and Historian David Hicks) went to Cambridge for the semester, so some younger guys had to step up and fill in some positions, and they did a great job. It was refreshing to see new, young faces in the leadership roles for the club because it shows the future for Upsilon is very bright.

The other thing that made this spring such a memorable one was the new guys tapped this semester. It all started with the "retreat" (induction) that was put on by Dine Patterson. This was Dine's second semester being the induction coordinator and he did an unbelievable job. The rest of the members rallied around Dine's vision and put on an induction that will be remembered by the current members for a lifetime. I have to take this time to give a special thank you to the new guys, because all of the planning for induction is nothing unless the new guys give it their all, learn, and live these lessons, which they have done. The strength of unity in this new tap and their hard work has brought the club even closer together as a whole. I am not sure how often the club has been able to say that the new guys were able to bring the whole group closer, and again I want to thank them for that. There is a special feeling when you can watch a whole tap "get it".

Upsilon brought a new phenomenon to the campus in the spring of 2005 as well. Dodgeball was officially introduced to the Lee University campus twice by Upsilon in the semester. The new guys did a fund-raising dodgeball tournament that was a huge success. The dean of students, Mr. Alan McClung, told me that it was such a good event that he said we should stick with it and ride the success for a couple more years. The club

(State of the Club continued)

took his advice and held another tournament for the club's semester event. This one was run by Caleb Dawson and was a well-attended, well-managed event.

I want to end this by giving another special thank you to a man that no matter how much we thank him, it will never be enough. The most prestigious award for graduating seniors is named after him. He is the man behind the scenes who is always working for the club. Dr. Bill George in my opinion could win the Distinguished Alumnus of the Year for Upsilon every year. He was honored as the Distinguished Alumnus of the Year for Lee University this past year, a well deserved honor. Ask anyone on the Executive Committee's (E.C.) of the past years and they will tell you that Dr. George is the backbone of this organization. I have had the honor of being on the E.C. the past couple years and it is amazing to see all of the work that he puts in for the benefit of the club. On behalf of myself, and more importantly the entire club, Dr. George I just wanted to say THANK YOU!!! Hickory, Tony McLeod, Big Rim 49



Cultivating Community

Jonny Moore, Chaplain of Upsilon Fall and Spring 2004-05

These past few weeks I have been reflecting on my college experience due to the fact that I am graduating in May. I have thought about the good times, bad times, stressful times, and all of those all-nighters that I pulled to get a paper done just before it was due the next morning. I would not change my college experience for anything in the world. I believe this experience has been so valuable mainly because of my involvement in Upsilon. I have been dedicated to this club for eight wonderful semesters and have truly taken great pleasure being involved with such a great group of young men. Just thinking of this great organization a sense of pride swells up inside of me, so I would just like to say thank you. Thank you Upsilon for making my college experience complete, and for all of the incredible lessons that I learned in the process. I know that this column strays from the ordinary "devotional" section that the chaplain is supposed to write, but I just thought I would share my heart.

In Upsilon these past two semesters I believe that the Lord has laid on my heart to challenge the guys in the club to stretch themselves and try to cultivate "community" within the club and then extending this sense of community to the campus at large. When I think of community I am reminded of the New Testament church who were in one mind with one purpose in sight. To develop this sense of community we have to start with love because this is the watermark of how a true disciple of Christ can be identified. As members of Upsilon we have to put petty differences aside and realize that there is a mission at hand, which is to be a light and positive influence on the Lee campus. Christ said in John 13:35, "By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

I believe that this is the challenge at hand for the men of Upsilon Xi. We have to love one another with a selfless love that knows no end and when we truly grasp this concept then those on the outside looking in cannot help but notice Christ working within this group. When true community is developed then it is a contagious force that cannot be contained by the walls of our meeting room on Tuesday nights. I am amazed to see the progress of the club these past few semesters and I stand in awe of what lies ahead for these great men who have the potential to change their world through the community that we call Upsilon Xi.



Upsilon Induction

Dine Patterson, Induction Chairman, Upsilon Fall and Spring 2004-05

Induction always starts the semester off right and for the last year it has been nothing short of amazing. For fall 2004, Upsilon used a site that had never been used before. Johnny Abernathy graciously volunteered his land. Several guys made numerous trips down to Cartersville, Georgia, making sure the site was ready to go. The tap before was 15 guys who weren't allowed to do anything but watch, leaving us a little shorthanded, so I knew we needed everyone to step up.

The induction site was over an hour away so car rides were without a doubt some of the most adventuresome ever. Many alumni came out to Abernathy's house that night. Club members really saw how much of a blessing induction can be to be on those who previously experienced it. I saw several members of Upsilon pouring everything they had into the new guys and the inductees were responding in turn. That passion for Upsilon from both sides is what changes hearts and lives.

The spring 2005 induction, back at our previous site, is one that will always stand out in my mind. I kept preaching to everyone that all of us must show the passion and love we have for Upsilon out in the woods for the new guys to get the most of the induction. I couldn't believe the way guys stepped up. For Tap 83 (15 guys) it was the first time being able to induct and they really jumped in and played huge roles. The leaders of the club were leading us and giving everything they had to the new guys. The new guys countered our intensity. Upsilon was bonding tighter with each other when we were supposed to be the ones teaching.

I think many of us can say this, but I know personally that the new guys changed my life with the way they went through. With that happening, I watched every single new guy break learning what HICKORY is all about. The tears were all over because for about 15 of us it was our last time being able to teach something we love. It seemed like God put his final touches on the weekend, holding off the freezing snowstorm until five minutes after we had finished. This was the first time I could look back and describe an induction as perfect.

Upsilon in the Parade of Favorites

Michael DelBonis, Secretary Fall 2005

Upsilon had four members involved in the 2005 Parade of Favorites (POF). There was a little twist to POF this year as it moved to a hip-hop theme. Representing the club was Dream Girl little sister Katie Dietz. Katie sang her own wonderful version of Rascal Flatt's "Bless the Broken Road." Upsilon could not be more proud of the way Katie represented us so well.

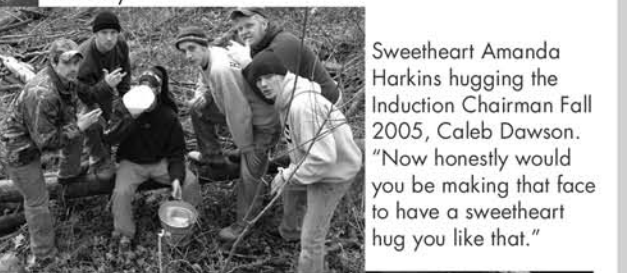
Katie said, "It was an honor to represent Upsilon in POF. It was such a great experience and I would never have had the opportunity to do it. It was so much fun; thanks for letting me do it!" She was escorted by Tanard Rousey who made the Men in Black look good on stage with his smooth dance moves to the hip hop music. T said, "It was a great opportunity and I had a blast representing Upsilon. It was also a lot of fun spending time with Miss Dietz. She really helped make POF as fun as it was; without her, POF wouldn't have been nearly as exciting."

Also involved in POF from Upsilon were Michael DelBonis and T.J. Adeshola. Michael did an awesome job representing A-Force and escorted Julie Watson. T.J., last year's Best Escort award winner, helped with the planning of the event, including helping some of the guys with their dance moves.

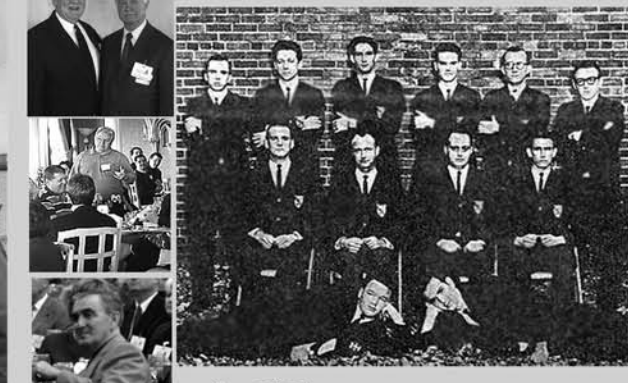


The return of Upsilon to Cambridge University

David Hicks, Hermilo Jasso III, B.J. Johnson, Rich Wilkerson and Little Sister Tami Schiller (not pictured) in front of Kings College, Cambridge University.



Little Sisters



All because of you... we are Upsilon Xi.

Support the Upsilon Xi Alumni Association give your annual alumni dues today.

Dues are \$25 annually and may still be paid. Mail to the treasurer, Nick Humble, PO Box 2396, Cleveland TN 37320-2396 or go to the Web site, Upsilonxi.com, click on "Membership in the UXAA continues to increase" and follow the link to PayPal, a secure donor site.

upsilonxi.com

"Induction is tough."



Johnny Moore, formerly chaplain, President, and now senior giving words of wisdom to the younger guys.



Bill George Alumnus of the Year of Lee University

(excerpted from the *Lee University Torch*)

DR. BILL GEORGE is one of the newest recipients of Lee's annual alumni awards, Alumnus of the Year. The award was presented during the annual President's Circle luncheon. The luncheon was attended by special guests of President Paul Conn, primarily donors to the 2004 Annual Alumni Fund. Alumnus of the Year Dr. Bill George has had a long association with Lee University. He attended as a student in the 1960s and was a member of Upsilon Xi, a men's Greek social service organization. He later served as a member of the faculty on two occasions for a total of 13 years. In the 1980s, he led in the establishment of the School of Religion's inter-cultural studies major, a program of study designed to prepare persons for ministry in cultures other than their own. Dr. George has earned degrees from Lee, University of Alabama, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Fuller Theological Seminary. He also studied at the Spanish Language School in Guadalajara, Mexico. He and his wife, Nelda, were missionaries in the Dominican Republic and in Mexico, where he was founding director of the Mexican Bible Seminary. He has written five books on church themes and contributed numerous articles to church publications. In his role as editor-in-chief of Pathway Press he supervises the production of books, magazines and educational curriculum for the 6-million-member Church of God denomination. In Cleveland, he is vice president of the local Rotary Club. He and Nelda have two sons, Michael and David, both presently in military service. "This award is special because of where it comes from," George said upon accepting the award from President Conn. "If there was a mural somewhere to depict the life of Bill George, almost all of it would be of Lee College and Lee University."



Dr. Bill George, has served as sponsor of Upsilon Xi for many years, overseeing such things as inductions, service projects as the *Love Atlanta Run*, *The Lee University Mace* and the *Upsilon Clocktower*.



Joseph "Highrock" Giove Awarded Alumnus of the Year for Upsilon Xi

Joseph Giove is one of the newest recipients of the Upsilon Xi Alumnus of the Year award. Giove was a student at Lee in the mid-90's, and became a member of Upsilon in the fall of 1994. While at Lee, Giove was a part of the men's basketball team that won the NCCAA National Championship for the 1993-94 season. At that time, he was known around campus as "Jumping" Joe Giove and was a key member of the team which featured eight Upsilon members and was also coached by a Upsilon man (Larry Carpenter). Joe graduated from the university cum laude in 1995. Soon after graduating he went to work for the U.S. government for the National Cancer Institute. Giove has recently accepted a job change and promotion. Now he works in the Department of Energy in a high ranking job in Fossil Fuels.

Joe has of recent years served Upsilon in the capacity as Upsilon Xi Alumni Association President. But has also contributed to the promotion and success of the Upsilon website, which has become a vital link to Upsilon and Lee University. He also developed the idea for a national phone directory. Mr. Giove's accomplishments make him well-deserving of this prestigious honor.

Joe accepted the award stating, "I am grateful for this award and am deeply honored by it. I am certain that I am the least of all the ones who have won this prestigious award. I am deeply thankful and honored."

The President's Circle had a bit of Upsilon. B. J. Johnson, his mother Carolyn Johnson, Rick Folino and his wife Dianne, Joe Giove and the Founder of Upsilon Xi Duran Palmetree.



Nick Humble opened the meeting in prayer at the Alumni Breakfast.



John and Su Vining enjoying the booths at Homecoming.

Slogans for the New Year:

"Al-chi-duh

we hate terrorism
— Upsilon Xi!"

"Bucket — \$4.50

Chili — \$1.34 a can

Buttermilk — \$1.24 a gallon

Rope — \$.60 a foot

Upsilon Induction Priceless!"

"Always bet on Black"

"Anyone have a flame"

(the remodeling of Paul Dana Walker eliminate the chi flame)

"Hickory

-what else can be said."

Upsilon Members Inducted Into Business Honor Society

When Lee University inaugurated a new business honor society this year, Sigma Beta Delta, for it business, management and administration students, three Upsilon members were among the first inductees.

David Hicks, Hermilo Jasso and Cameron Kist were included in the inaugural membership. This indicates they were among the top 20 percent of their class.

A faculty member serves as president of BSD, and longtime Upsilon faculty sponsor Dr. Bill Jaber was tapped for this honor. The society recognizes students who have attained superior records in business programs in schools and colleges with regional accreditation. These students bring additional recognition to Upsilon by their achievement.



upsilon xi

Black&Gray

All Because of You... We are Upsilon Xi.

Come and enjoy Homecoming among brothers...

November 4 & 5, 2005

Lee University Homecoming

Join the Upsilon Xi Alumni Association

Dues are \$25 annually and may still be paid. Mail to the treasurer, Nick Humble, PO Box 2396, Cleveland TN 37320-2396 or go to the Web site, Upsilonxi.com, click on "Membership in the UXAA continues to increase" and follow the link to PayPal, a secure donor site.



Upsilon Xi

Upsilon Xi at 2004 Homecoming Booth, notables pictured, Duran Palmetree in background, Johnny Moore (front row left) former president and now chaplain, President Tony McCleod (beside paddle, right), and Seth LaMagna, Alumnus.

Tap for Fall '04

Sweetheart: Brooke Murray
Lil' Sister: Katie Dietz
Lil' Sister: Shawn Douglas
Lil' Sister: Tami Schiller
Lil' Sister: Natalie Wharton
Highman: Jeff Eastham
Joe Cope
Tim Gibson
Logan Kirkpatrick
Tenard Roussey
Lowman: Brad Suggs
Lowman: Kyle Whitfield

Spring '05

Sweetheart: Amanda Harkins
Lil' Sister: Lyndsee Taylor
Lil' Sister: Amber Potter
Lil' Sister: Cameron Kist
Highman: Caleb Hindman
Stephen Dahlin
Brent Dougherty
Michael Evans
Matthew Propes
Shawn Scott
Derek White
Lowman: Adam Bolin

making leaders, transforming lives,
and molding relationships



Upsilon Xi

Executive Committee for Fall 2005

President: Rich Wilkerson, Vice-President: Andy Elrod, Senior Member: David Hicks
Chaplain: Sam Kidwell, Secretary: Michael DelBonis, Treasurer: Brock McIntire
Induction Chair: Caleb Dawson, Alumni Coord.: Hermilo Jasso
Historian: Jordan Sherrett, Historian: Joe Cope
Greek Council: Jonathan Adams

I Went On A Fun Journey
One Day,

I Learned About Distance
And Miles,

I Learned Love Through The
Weight Of Suffering, that is
the World,

I Bowed Before My Priest
And Confessed My Sins,

I Was Able To Meet The
Ideal of Upsilon Again And
Again,

I Went To A Place High
Above And Broke Bread
With Friends,

And I'll Never Be The Same
Again.

HICKORY

(changed slightly for protection, but originally from Brent Naudin)