



TRUST NEWS

Presented by the Chi Phi Educational Trust

SPRING 2026

DEAR BROTHERS & FRIENDS,

Over the past several months, the Educational Trust has witnessed the impact Chi Phi has on young men. In the pages ahead, you'll learn more about programs including the prestigious 2026 Alphas & Thetas Academy, recently established New Brother Weekend, and merit-based scholarships including the most recent Circle of Scholars honorees. As we take a moment to reflect, we recognize that none of this would be possible without the dedication of those who believe in the work we do. Brothers and Friends of Chi Phi continue to give freely of their time, talent, and treasure, for which we are immensely grateful.

As we recognize Volunteer Appreciation Week in April, we are especially grateful to the many Brothers who give so generously of their time. From those who serve on committees to the volunteers who support educational programs, your dedication makes a meaningful and lasting impact. Within the newsletter, we also extend special recognition to those honored this past year with a Chairman's Award, an acknowledgement of Brothers who have gone above and beyond in their service to the Trust.

Equally important is the financial generosity of our donors. Their support—either as a monthly, recurring donor or those that give at the Gladfelter level—provides critical resources to the Educational Trust. These funds help to award merit-based scholarships to lessen the cost burden of a college degree, provide impactful leadership training programs, and expand educational opportunities for undergraduate Brothers.

As we look toward the year ahead, we invite you, if you have not already, to consider making a gift to the Educational Trust before June 30. Your support helps ensure that these opportunities continue to grow and benefit the next generation of Chi Phi leaders. Just as vital is the gift of time, and we encourage Brothers to consider volunteering with the Trust to help advance these efforts. Together, through both service and generosity, we can ensure that the Hand of Brotherhood is Always Extended.

With sincere gratitude,

Ricardo Perez, Theta Delta 1981
Educational Trust Chairman

Laura Landry
Executive Director



JOIN US FOR
CHI PHI'S
160th CONGRESS

July 17-19, 2026
Cincinnati, Ohio

chiphil.org/congress

MAKING CHANGE THROUGH THE FOUNDERS DAY CAMPAIGN



2025 FOUNDERS DAY
BUILDING BETTER MEN
for 201 years

Thanks to the generosity of 413 Brothers, Parents, and Friends of Chi Phi, the 2025 Founders Day Campaign raised more than \$151,000 to support impactful initiatives for our Brotherhood.

This incredible group includes Brothers from 62 Chapters with graduation years spanning 1950-2029, an outstanding 85 Brothers and Friends who made their first gift to Chi Phi, and residents of 39 states and 3 countries.

Nearly 2,200 undergraduate Chi Phi members will benefit from this generosity through merit-based scholarships, top-tier educational programs, and grants to the Fraternity staff for on-the-ground Chapter support.

These avenues of support are critical to today's college men who continue to enjoy the positive fraternity experience which our Alumni Brothers remember. With this incredible support, research shows that men in fraternities are more likely to finish college, report higher levels of mental health, and are more confident in their own leadership abilities.

The Chi Phi Educational Trust and the entire Brotherhood owe a huge thank you to all who make this Campaign a success. It is only through the financial support of Brothers, Parents, and Friends that Chi Phi can continue to Build Better Men.

WHERE OUR DONORS ARE FROM

CHAPTERS WITH THE MOST CAMPAIGN DONORS



MOST CAMPAIGN DOLLARS RAISED BY CHAPTER



MOST CAMPAIGN DONORS BY STATE



MOST CAMPAIGN DOLLARS RAISED BY STATE



While our Brotherhood and Chapters span the country from coast to coast, let's take a moment to recognize and appreciate the outstanding generosity of our top states and Chapters represented in the Campaign.



Alphas and Thetas Academy: Chi Phi's Premier Educational Program for Undergraduate Leadership

From January 9–11, 2026, undergraduate leaders from Chapters all across the country convened in Atlanta, Georgia, for the esteemed Alphas and Thetas Academy. This intensive weekend brought men together to develop the skills, insight, and confidence needed to lead their Chapters effectively.

The program challenged participants to reflect on their roles, identify priorities for growth, and build strategies for personal well-being and sustainable leadership. Through interactive workshops such as teambuilding simulations, communication challenges, and peer problem-solving sessions, attendees gained practical tools to navigate complex situations within their Chapters. Engaging with peers from other Chapters allowed participants to exchange strategies, share lessons learned, and broaden their perspectives, all while reinforcing the principles of accountability, communication, and mentorship that define exceptional Chapter leadership.

A standout moment of the weekend was the 2nd Annual **Christopher J. Shuler, Alpha Zeta 1984, Chairman's Dinner**, held at the esteemed Piedmont Driving Club. The evening featured an inspiring keynote from **Major General Dale Alford, Alpha Zeta 1986**, whose distinguished military career exemplifies leadership at its highest level. His insights resonated deeply with attendees, underscoring the responsibilities and opportunities inherent in their roles as Alpha or Theta.



The entire weekend would not have been possible without the dedication of our talented volunteer facilitators. Their guidance helped transform challenging sessions into meaningful learning experiences, and their commitment over just three days will undoubtedly leave a lasting impact on an entire generation of Chi Phi leaders.



**Brothers attended the
2026 Alphas & Thetas
Academy.**



**of participants left the
Academy confident in
their ability to lead
effectively.**



**Chapters were
represented in the
2026 program.**





GLADFELTER CIRCLE Members **Change** **Trajectory** of Chi Phi



Brother Phil Plylar, Tau 1990, center, is a first-time member of the Gladfelter Circle in 2026.



Looking back over my career, I know that I would not have made it through school without the support of my Brothers at Chi Phi. Those friendships and their support have continued over the years and are still there today. Seeing the work that the Educational Trust is doing now to mentor our younger Brothers, giving to the Trust was just my way of saying ‘thank you’ to Chi Phi.



Much like Brother Carl J. Gladfelter, Alpha-Tau 1933, who served the Fraternity in distinguished roles including Grand Alpha and Executive Director, members of the Gladfelter Circle leave a lasting impact on our Brotherhood by committing a gift of \$2,000 or more annually to the Chi Phi Educational Trust.

Last fiscal year, **59 individuals** – both Brothers and Friends of Chi Phi – generously stepped forward to join the Gladfelter Circle. Their impact at this level accelerates the growth of both our Brotherhood and individual Brothers by allowing the Educational Trust to continue to provide grants for initiatives vital to providing a true fraternal experience to today’s college men.

Meanwhile, some Gladfelter Circle contributions target other essential needs of the organization, such as housing improvements or local educational and scholarship programs.

But, no matter the program supported, every dollar of a Gladfelter Circle gift makes a tremendous, positive impact on our Brotherhood.

Just **one** individual who joins the Gladfelter Circle gives **more** than enough to:



Award the average amount of a merit-based scholarship

OR



Provide 2 Brothers with a leadership experience at Alphas & Thetas Academy

OR



Allow 6 men to have their first national experience at New Brother Weekend

OR



Fund 32 Sparks Medals to recognize outstanding academic achievement

2025 CIRCLE OF SCHOLARS

In the Educational Trust’s steadfast endeavor to promote scholastic achievement by supporting our undergraduate and graduate Brothers in their academic pursuits, the Educational Trust is proud to offer merit-based scholarships annually. Every year, recipients consistently demonstrate academic excellence, exceptional leadership within their Chapter and campuses, as well as dedicate countless hours to serve their communities.

In an effort to recognize those Brothers who truly go above and beyond, the Circle of Scholars was established. This prestigious honor is bestowed upon top scoring applicants who, upon interviewing with the Scholarship Committee, demonstrate not only their academic and professional ambitions, but who are also undoubtedly creating a legacy that will inspire others for many years to come.

To learn more about each of these recipients as well as about our merit-based scholarship program, please visit chiphitrust.org/impact/scholarships



Rohan Deb, Beta 2025
\$5,000 Scholarship
Beta CEF Scholarship & Trust General Scholarship



Asa Barnhart, Xi Delta 2026
\$4,000 Scholarship
Xi Delta CEF Scholarship & Trust General Scholarship



Mitav Nayak, Beta 2026
\$4,000 Scholarship
Beta CEF Scholarship & Trust General Scholarship

Cornerstone of Success: Your Monthly Gift to Chi Phi

Whether it is monthly, quarterly, or even annually, recurring gifts allow any nonprofit, including the Chi Phi Educational Trust, to have a steady, reliable source of income. This is key to Chi Phi's success by allowing our focus to remain on long-term, large-scale impact.

Starting in 2012, Brother **Carl Middleton, Eta Delta 1971**, has made a monthly gift using this convenient method of giving, and recalls that:

“ I used to get the regular solicitation. I would put it on the pile on my desk and say to myself, ‘I’ll have to do this’ Of course, doing that and getting around to it were two different things. By setting up a regular draft on my checking account, my actions meet my intentions.”

These gifts quickly add up, making them a true cornerstone of the support which Chi Phi receives from donors; some Brothers even join the prestigious **Gladfelter Circle** with their recurring gift.

You can establish your own recurring gift today by scanning the QR code or visiting chiphitrust.org/donate.



New Brother Weekend is designed to meet Brothers at a pivotal moment—when their sense of belonging is strong, but their understanding of what Brotherhood can truly be is still taking shape.

Held March 27–29, 2026, in Charlotte, North Carolina, this year's program placed a greater emphasis on the real challenges facing undergraduate members today. Moving beyond foundational knowledge, the curriculum encouraged meaningful conversations around accountability, purpose, and the everyday actions that shape a Chapter's culture. Leading the experience was **Chris Fernandez, Rho Delta 2017**, IFC Advisor and Assistant Director of Greek Life at the University of Georgia.

A central theme throughout the weekend was ownership. Participants were challenged to think beyond the social experience and take an active role in shaping their Brotherhood. By focusing on accountability and action, the program empowers young members to lead change within their Chapters—strengthening both their individual experiences and the future of Chi Phi.

The impact was evident. Brothers built meaningful connections, exchanged ideas, and continued conversations well beyond scheduled sessions. **“It is exciting to think about how these men will bring that experience back to their Chapters,”** Fernandez shared.

WHY I GIVE:



Rob Silverman
Kappa Delta 2005

“My experience as a Chi Phi has had a huge impact on who I am today, and I love to be able to give back and help the Brotherhood that had such an effect on me ... Ever since setting up a monthly payment years ago, I don't have to think about it, and the Educational Trust will know they have some money coming in without having to ask or try to predict it.”



Brother Middleton, second from right, in the Eta Delta Chapter House as a student at USC.

DID YOU KNOW:

Contributing just \$25 a month – \$300 annually – provides the funds needed for one member to experience New Brother Weekend.



Chris Fernandez, Rho Delta 2017

“When you support a leadership program like this, you are funding more than education— you are investing in Brotherhood, memories, and the foundation of our Fraternity.”



The Foundation Behind The Brotherhood

As Chi Phi Fraternity enters its third century, the Chi Phi Educational Trust is taking an important step to strengthen the financial foundation that supports leadership development, educational programming, and lifelong Brotherhood. This moment offers both a chance to reflect on Chi Phi's legacy as well as an opportunity to ensure it remains strong and adaptable for generations to come.

In recent years, the Trust has made meaningful progress in growing its endowment, expanding scholarships, and advancing long-term initiatives that benefit Chi Phi Brothers across the country. At the same time, many of the programs that impact Brothers most directly, particularly leadership development experiences and the dedicated staff who make them possible, continue to rely on unrestricted support. These flexible resources are essential, allow the Trust to operate effectively, deliver high-quality programs, and respond to the evolving needs of chapters nationwide.

To build on this momentum, the Trust has established the **Chi Phi Foundation Fund**: an initiative designed to strengthen and sustain the unrestricted resources that power its day-to-day impact. As part of a focused third-century initiative, this effort will prioritize growing the Foundation Fund over the next twelve months, enhancing financial stability while **ensuring the continued delivery of meaningful programs**.

Support for the Foundation Fund will directly sustain leadership development opportunities, provide stability during fluctuations in annual giving, and reinforce the Trust's long-term financial health. Just as importantly, it will allow the organization to remain nimble, to meet new challenges, and to seize new opportunities in service of our mission.

Organizations that endure for centuries do so by investing not only in their programs, but in the strength of the foundation behind them. The Chi Phi Foundation Fund represents a critical step in securing that future, while ensuring the Educational Trust can continue to support, develop, and connect Chi Phi Brothers for generations to come.

"People are short on hope these days. But you know what's inspiring? Attending programs such as Alphas & Thetas Academy and New Brother Weekend. It shows the diversity present within our Brotherhood, provides you with a sense of belonging, and reminds you that Chi Phi is much bigger than just yourself and your Chapter."

Abe Peyton, Xi Theta 2028
Current Alpha
(Center with hat)

LEARN MORE:

To learn more about the Chi Phi Foundation Fund or to explore how you can support this effort, please reach out directly to the Executive Director of the Educational Trust Laura Landry at landry@chphi.org or via phone at 404.231.1824.

Planning for a Stronger Future



“A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in” - a well-known proverb attributable to many of life’s circumstances, including within our Brotherhood. For some of the Educational Trust’s dedicated donors, this kind of future planning for Chi Phi takes shape as a Planned Gift.

By establishing a Planned Gift and joining the MacLean Legacy Society, supporters of the Chi Phi Educational Trust distinguish themselves as members of an elite group who “plant the trees” which will one day benefit future generations of Chi Phi Brothers.

One such Brother is **Dennis Rivera, Beta 1999**, who established a planned gift through the Bicentennial Capital Campaign. For Brother Rivera, the Beta Chapter served as a surrogate family during his years in college and beyond, creating his desire to find a way to permanently support the Brothers at MIT.

His generous support of the existing Beta Chapter Excellence Fund and the creation of the Dennis Rivera, Beta 1999, Memorial Scholarship Fund entrenches his legacy within Chi Phi and the Beta Chapter through a financial need-based scholarship supporting Brothers’ academic endeavors.

“Chi Phi has been a steady and formative part of my life, shaping how I lead and how I show up for others. The friendships I formed through Chi Phi have been defined by acceptance, support, and the simple fact that the hand of Brotherhood is always extended. My commitment is meant to help ensure that future Brothers can rely on the same strong, reliable Fraternity that strengthened me.”



Dennis Rivera, Beta 1999

Like Brother Rivera, other members of the MacLean Legacy Society plan to continue their support of Chi Phi well after they enter Chapter Eternal. For these individuals, establishing a planned gift to Chi Phi not only eases the burden of their estate administration but also allows them to have a larger financial impact on Chi Phi than otherwise possible within their lifetime.

If you are interested in establishing your legacy within Chi Phi through a planned gift, contact the Educational Trust staff at educationaltrust@chiphio.org or call 404.231.1824.



WHAT IS A PLANNED GIFT

Planned gifts take many forms based around the concept of a future charitable gift arranged as part of a donor’s financial or estate plans, often allowing the donor to make a larger financial impact than in their lifetime.

It can be as simple as leaving as little as 1% of their estate through a will, naming Chi Phi as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, or designating Chi Phi as a beneficiary on an investment or retirement account. Planned gifts are simple to set up, can be changed if circumstances evolve, and create a lasting impact on our Brotherhood.



Volunteer Appreciation Week: April 19–25, 2026

We are deeply grateful to all of our dedicated volunteers whose time, talent, and treasure make our work possible. From serving as a facilitator at an educational program to reviewing scholarship applications, your support certainly does not go unnoticed! Know that your service strengthens our Brotherhood and creates a lasting impact for generations to come!

T H A N K Y O U

2025 CHAIRMAN'S AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Chi Phi Educational Trust is proud to recognize the 2025 Chairman's Award recipients. These honorees' dedication, service, and generosity have made a lasting impact on our Brotherhood throughout our historic Bicentennial year.



**ALPHA ZETA ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION**



**MATT SCHELLER,
PSI 2007, RHO 2024**



**JASON MALONE,
ALPHA-CHI 1997**

Recognized for its outstanding partnership with the Educational Trust. Over the past four years, their efforts have raised significant funds in support of undergraduate scholarships through a sponsored golf tournament and other weekend-long events. Additionally, members of the Alumni Association also played a critical role in the success of the Bicentennial Bourbon fundraiser. Their continued presence, leadership, and willingness to support Brothers nationwide exemplify the ideals of Chi Phi.

Honored for his extraordinary leadership throughout the Bicentennial celebration. From developing the Bicentennial brand and commemorative Badge to helping plan and execute events across the country, Brother Scheller's vision and tireless commitment helped bring Chi Phi's 200th anniversary to life. His attention to detail and selfless service ensured the Bicentennial will be remembered as one of the most significant moments in our Fraternity's history.

Recognized for nearly a decade of dedicated service to the Trust's Scholarship Program. As a long-standing member of the Scholarship Review Committee and a key contributor to strategic planning efforts, Brother Malone has played an essential role in strengthening and sustaining one of the Trust's most impactful initiatives. His continued involvement despite distance and time commitments reflects his unwavering commitment to supporting the next generation of Chi Phi Gentlemen.

CONTACT US



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