

The Delta Chi Gator

Online Edition

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“Saturday Conversation” – Lt. Col. Robert Allen

As many of you already know, on February 20-21, 2009 the Florida Chapter held a celebration of its founding and re-chartering here at UF. For this event we had many great alumni in attendance, but one in particular stood out to everyone.

During the Friday night meet-and-greet, a brother named Bob Allen and his wife Helen stood up to introduce themselves. Bob briefly told us about himself and that this was his first trip back to the University since his graduation in 1950. From that moment forward I knew that this was someone I wanted to hear more from.

After the weekend was settled and everyone had gone home, I

contacted Bob and asked if I could come to his home in Jacksonville to learn a little bit more about his and Helen's lives.

So I drove up to Jacksonville, and seven hours later I had more stories than could ever be recorded. Lieutenant Colonel Robert S. Allen had experienced more in the Air Force and life in general than any of the brothers could ever dream of, and the stories he told will continue to intrigue us for years to come.

Throughout his life, Bob lived in a total of 19 places before finally coming back to settle in Jacksonville, for now at least. Despite all of this movement, however, Bob and Helen pride themselves on the fact that all of their children,

Katrina, Julian, Miriam and Robert Jr. all graduated from the same high school in Virginia.

In college, Bob said that the structure of rush was much different than today. When Bob was a freshman in the summer of 1946 Delta Chi was just getting reorganized after the war. At the time, rush was not formal and pledges could join at any time during the semester and were initiated whenever they were deemed “ready”. For Bob, his invitation to pledge Delta Chi came when he

was recruited by his close friend Jack Burr to play for the Delta Chi intramural basketball team. It wasn't until Bob's junior year that the fraternity held its first formal, “organized” rush.

Bob said that his time in Delta Chi was “a good four years, it was enjoyable”, and went on to tell me how close knit the brothers were at the time because of the war and the rebuilding of the fraternity. Helen added that Greek organizations feel like home on such a (See Bob Allen, pg. 2)



Bob and Helen Allen at their home in Jacksonville, FL

Letter from the “A” – Mike Garitty

This is a very important time for the Florida Chapter. We have had great fortune in the past few years. We have renovated the house and had great brother involvement on campus. However, the next year will decide the fate of Delta Chi's future at the University

of Florida. Several things that are of the utmost importance are:

- Summer BBQ and big Fall pledge class
- Hosting RLC (Regional Leadership Conference) on January 30th, 2010
- Fixing up the

remaining repairs necessary to the house. These include the roof (which is leaking pretty badly), the chapter room, the shower, the back deck, and new furniture to replace our plastic chairs and tables in the dining room.

- Improving overall chapter GPA from a 3.2 to a 3.4

Again, we hope for your help and support. We are back in the house, and while that was a huge step, let's not forget the importance of continuing what we started.

Family Weekend – Spring 2009

On April 18, 2009 the Florida Chapter hosted Family Weekend at the Orange and Blue Debut football game. We started the day off with a discussion about the chapter between alumni, parents, and brothers led by John Paré ('91) and Dave Houser ('90). The discussion was very helpful for apprehensive parents to see what fraternity life is really all about, and helped

establish some goals that the brothers felt we could accomplish in the coming year. Before heading over to the Orange and Blue game everyone ate breakfast at the house and met each others' families. After the game we all headed back to the house and got to watch current "A" Mike Garitty lead the brothers in an impromptu game of basketball against former

"A" Rich Vermut ('92). Thanks to "creative scoring" the alumni managed to win the game, but the brothers vowed to get revenge soon.



Bob Allen (continued from pg. 1)

large campus. Delta Chi was very involved around campus at the time, as well, participating largely in the festivities of the Florida-Georgia game and parade, the Military Ball held at UF every year, and IFC's annual Fall/Spring Frolics. Despite all of this, the brothers still managed to keep about the 2nd highest GPA's on campus and dated one girl from every sorority except Alpha Delta Pi, "the enemies to the west," who were the brothers' next door neighbors at the time.

After college, Bob did everything from working with the Air Force Special Weapons unit on the Mark 6 nuclear bomb, to getting his Master's Degree in Geonetic Science from Ohio State, to fighting

for his country in Vietnam, to working for a land development firm, and finally retiring from the Pentagon with GS-15 status, the highest level of general schedule within the U.S. Government. After retirement, Bob and Helen moved out to Washington State in 1980 to try their hands at cattle ranching, and Bob even went into doing peoples' taxes and serving as his County Representative for the Agency of Aging under then Governor Gary Locke (now the U.S. Secretary of Commerce).

After all of these years away from UF, Bob said that he came back simply because he saw an article in the Delta Chi Gator about a banquet that made him and Helen feel that "it was time to come back". Bob and

Helen agreed that the current group of brothers is very close knit and were quite impressed with the re-founding of the fraternity.

Spending the day with Bob and Helen was one of the most memorable experiences in my life thus far, and if you would like to hear more of Bob's story in the next newsletter or go visit him yourself feel free to e-mail me at arenda@ufl.edu.



Lt. Col. Bob Allen's recognitions in the U.S. Air Force

What's up with the Florida Chapter?

This summer, the brothers will be working on numerous projects inside the house. The crests on the walkway will soon be replaced, the chapter room will be refinished, and all of the little projects will be fixed up with all of the spare time we have.

Besides the physical projects waiting to be done, I am working on a great new program for all of our alumni to get involved in. I've talked to many of you to start

preparing the basics and laying the groundwork, the only thing we need next is YOU!

This new program will be called "Adopt-an-Alumnus" and will allow our associate members to each pair up with an individual alumnus based on their future career, area of interest, field of study, etc. Adopted Alumni will merely communicate with their "little brothers" throughout the semester and possibly pay them a visit

before or during initiation if you'd like.

If you are interested in being adopted please contact me at arenda@ufl.edu or (908)399-3995 to get the ball rolling.

In the Bond,
Antonio Renda
"E"