

A PROJECT MADE POSSIBLE BY SAEF

History of the Phi Chapter through the Lens of Bro. Walt Mixon Φ'1969

Last December, the Phi Chapter was invited to an event in Oxford to honor Brother Walt Mixon's photography (Φ'69). Walt was a noted photographer in North Mississippi for decades and a long-time resident of Oxford. The event was hosted by the North Light Gallery in conjunction with Oxford Writes, a local writing venture. Walt's son, Avery Φ '99, explained his father's photographs and his life-long role in Oxford photography. Patrick Waters Φ'16, Cam Brooks Φ'16, Dr. Billy Rhodes Φ'75, and I attended the event and were able to discuss Walt's work with Avery. Cam, a photographer for Ole Miss Athletics, asked the right questions and found more out about Walt's photos. Avery mentioned that he had a box of Walt's with Delta Psi written on it, and we thought there is no better way to honor a family and a brother's life's work than preserving and displaying his photographs around the Hall.

Over the next few months, Pat and I worked to assess exactly what the Chapter could do to both honor Walt and educate our undergraduate brothers. Many of the photographs we held in archives were improperly preserved, and the photographs hanging around the Hall were displayed in mismatched frames. With the generous donation of Walt's Collection by Avery, and the photos we held in archives, we saw an opportunity to beautify the Hall and preserve Phi Chapter history. Luckily for us,

SAEF provides brothers, sisters, and siblings a means to enrich our studies, communities, and the Hall. The SAEF Grant allowed us to honor Phi's History and the life of a Brother, all while educating future generations of Phi brothers.



We have sorted 400 photos, digitized over 150, and framed 40. Many of these photographs were from Walt's collection, but some were held in archives, and others were obtained from the University of Mississippi Library. These photos include everyday life around the Hall during the late 1960s and 1970s, chapter pictures, portraits of notable alumni, and important events in our history. By documenting, preserving, framing, and displaying these photographs and portraits of Phi brethren, we aimed to educate potential new members, undergraduate brothers, and alumni on the influence and history of the Phi Chapter. We are especially grateful to the St. Anthony Education Fund and Avery Mixon. Without them, none of this would be possible.

The photographs show the role that Phi brothers have had at Ole Miss and beyond. Although many of the photos are much older than the undergraduates, we are reminded of the sacred bonds that connect us through the years. If you find yourself in Oxford, please stop by the Hall to see Walt's work.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A SAEF GRANT

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SAEF seeks grant applications which are creative, which may further one's education, which might support a program or initiative on campus or elsewhere and which help to promote educational opportunities for others.

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