

A LONG ROAD

Morrison cycles to raise \$5,600 for people with disabilities

By Ashley Harmon

Michael Morrison was looking for a challenge. He found it in a summer-long bike trek that tested his stamina, strength and commitment.

The junior sociology major from Leesburg, Ga., is a brother in the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity. He recently rode a bicycle cross-country to help raise money for individuals with disabilities, participating in Push America's 2003 Journey of Hope.

"I wanted to ride my bicycle across America in the beginning to prove to myself that no matter what I was faced with in life, I could handle it," Morrison said. "It was a challenge that would take every bit of my time, energy and resources to complete."

Push America is the exclusive philanthropy of the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity. The Journey of Hope is a cross-country bike trek beginning in San Francisco, Calif., and ending in Washington, D.C. The focus of this ride is to raise funds and awareness for people with disabilities. Saturn, KRG Capital, Chronic Care Solutions, Yakima, Clifbar, and Case Logic sponsored the journey.

The Journey of Hope started in San Francisco June 15 and ended in Washington, D.C. Aug. 16. The Journey of Hope took 63 days to complete, including four extra days of orientation in San Francisco. Throughout the trip, the Journey of Hope team covered 4,000 miles, 53 cities and 12 different states.

After cycling an average of 75 miles per day, and participating in a variety of events, cyclists would sleep in high school gyms, YMCA's, hotel rooms and once even stayed in a cleaned up barn.

Breakfast was handled by the crew chief, which consisted of mainly cereal, bagels and orange juice. Lunches were usually roadside sandwiches and chips. Occasionally some families would sponsor the lunches. "The best meals always came at supper time, when either local civic clubs, restaurants or even Saturn retailers would cook us amazing meals to keep us going," Morrison said.

"The scariest moment was in Monroe, La., where



**Worth the Ride—
Morrison stands in front of
the U.S. Capitol at the conclusion of
his cross-country trek.**

I was brushed by a car and the rider in front of me was directly hit by the car, as I watched him fall my heart just started pounding," Morrison said.

Morrison personally raised \$5,600, but as a Journey of Hope team they raised \$402,000. All of the proceeds benefit facilities that have people with disabilities as clients.

FAST FACT...

Pi Kappa Phi is the only national men's fraternity to establish and maintain its own philanthropy. Its members have raised more than \$8 million for Push America since its founding in 1977.