



FALL 2019

SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY AT AUBURN UNIVERSITY

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# Capital Campaign a Huge Success

## Generous Alumni to Thank for House Renovations

Just like our colony's journey to re-establish our Gamma Sigma Chapter, the capital campaign to support these new brothers, and many more in the future, has been a tremendous success. In Phase I of the campaign, \$176,000 was raised. In Phase II, we have raised \$230,506 for a grand total of \$406,506. I sincerely thank everyone who has given so generously to this campaign. Our new Brothers are now enjoying the fruits of your investments. Thanks to the House Corporation and Gamma Sigma Foundation, our house truly is a place we can all be proud of.

We created the Robert A. Benz White Cross Society (WCS) for donors who in the last year have given at least \$1,000 to our foundation. The first celebration for this society will take place at 737 W. Magnolia on Saturday, September 21. Festivities will include a watch party for the Texas A&M game, a celebration of the completion

of our house renovations, recognition for those who have made selfless contributions to our success, a report from our brothers about the status of the chapter, and a wonderful meal. Invitations have been sent to WCS members for this event. If you would like to join the WCS, you can do so by committing \$1,000. The WCS will live into the future, so membership is an ongoing opportunity.

Finally, I would like to especially thank those who have made significant contributions to the campaign. We all appreciate your dedication and commitment to our brotherhood. You will see their names listed on page 2.

In Hoc,  
**Fred McCallum '79**  
Capital Campaign Chairman

# Thank You, Generous Donors

We are truly thankful to the following thirty dedicated Brothers who have made significant contributions to the capital campaign in order to secure Gamma Sigma's future. As we gain back notoriety on campus, their contributions will ensure that future Sigma Chis have the same opportunities that they were afforded during their time at Sigma Chi.

Cecil G. Stokes Jr. '58  
 Howard E. Palmes III '59  
 Robert A. Benz '60  
 J. Scott Vowell '60  
 Sam H. Edwards '63  
 Stephen B. Gillikin '65  
 B. Seth Harp Jr. '66  
 Thomas A. McMillan Sr. '66

James J. Thompson Jr. '66  
 Harry I. Waddle Jr. '66  
 Christian F. Hamff III '69  
 Arthur H. Metcalf II '69  
 Edward F. Murray Jr. '70  
 Charles S. Henagan III '79  
 L. Preuit Mauldin '79  
 Fred J. McCallum Jr. '79

Douglas T. Turnbull '79  
 Dr. Richard C. Alker '81  
 Reid A. Brown '81  
 Javier C. Goizueta '81  
 Benjamin M. Palmer '82  
 Vince R. Costanza '84  
 Douglas H. Brown '88  
 Stephen M. Davis '88

Greg R. Shilling '89  
 James L. Batson III '91  
 Thomas A. McMillan Jr. '92  
 John A. Smyth III '93  
 Zack Lundy '22  
 Douglas Lundy

## In This Sign You Will Conquer

### Jim Thompson '66 Shares Excitement of Gamma Sigma's Return to Auburn



The teachings of Sigma Chi are more than rituals; they are instructions on how to live a well-purposed and meaningful life. **Jim Thompson '66** often reflects on the richness of his fraternity experience and how it was bolstered by its exemplary teachings and creed. "My life has been forever enriched by the high ideals and unwavering principles of the Sigma Chi fraternity," he stated.

Sigma Chi made a profound impact on Jim's life, blessing him with scores of brothers. These weren't simply fast friends but lifelong companions. That companionship with his Sigma Chi brothers taught Jim the meaning of "true friendship," motivating him to stay involved with Gamma Sigma Chapter as an alumnus. He is thrilled to see the chapter reinstalled at Auburn University and encourages all alumni to contribute to the capital campaign.

"The return of the chapter is the result of years of extraordinary efforts by a group of highly dedicated Sigma Chi alumni and colony members who genuinely have a great love for the fraternity and, especially, the Gamma Sigma Chapter," Jim said.

Dedication to Gamma Sigma's return to campus is evidenced by the hundreds of man-hours expended in meetings, traveling, and out-of-town lodging, and thousands of dollars spent in support of this "herculean effort to reinstall the chapter." Jim is most excited about the new brothers, all of whom have admirably supported this effort and, in the process, have brought honor and distinction to Gamma Sigma Chapter and Auburn University.

"I am fully confident and expect the chapter to reach new heights and a laudatory place within the fraternity system at Auburn," Jim stated.

"This expectation is not a hyperbole but is supported by the ultra-high quality and work ethic of the new brothers and the alumni who refuse to accept mediocrity and, much less, failure. Gamma Sigma is and will continue to be the best fraternity on the Auburn campus."

For more than 50 years, Jim has worked as an attorney in Birmingham; he is also a licensed airline transport pilot. He received his pilot's license from the Auburn University School of Aviation, driving him to focus his law practice on catastrophic aviation accidents, including airline crashes, military, and general aviation cases.

Jim's love of aviation extends to his personal life. He has a passion for flying WWII military airplanes, and he owns a North American AT-6 WWII advance trainer that is used for formation flights. Additionally, Jim serves as president of the Southern Museum of Flight Foundation.

When he's not in the courtroom or flying airplanes, Jim enjoys fishing for speckled trout at Dauphin Island and tending to his small farm at his home in Mountain Brook, Alabama, where he also breeds and raises Arabian horses. Jim and his wife, Becky, have been married for 53 years and have two sons, **Jay, Samford University '93**, and Scott. You can connect with Jim at [jt@jimthompsonlaw.com](mailto:jt@jimthompsonlaw.com).





**1.** Several brothers enjoy dinner with Faculty Advisor David Hennessey '95 for outstanding academic performance. **2.** Brothers celebrating their initiation and formal installation as a chapter on April 6. **3.** Brothers celebrate our newest sweetheart, Grace Marino. **4.** Sweetheart Grace Marino with brothers celebrating at Toomer's Corner following a big Auburn basketball win over Kansas.

## Gamma Sigma Wins Colony of the Year Award Men Dedicated to Maintaining Sigma Chi's Success

Spring semester was an eventful one for our chapter. We accepted seven new members during spring recruitment just before the final push toward installation. Speaking of installation, the banquet was a blast, and the chapter is extremely grateful for everyone who made the event possible. Brothers thoroughly enjoyed learning what it truly means to be a Sigma Chi.

### ATHLETICS AND ACADEMICS

Our intramural teams excelled, with our softball team having another respectable season and our basketball team making a long playoff run before being knocked off. In addition, we maintained our policy of requiring 10 community service hours per member per semester, further extending our reputation on and off campus. Our GPA for the spring semester was 3.08, but brothers are focused to improve our GPA this fall.

### AWARD-WINNING GAMMA SIGMA

Brothers who attended the Krach Transformational Leaders Workshop, formerly Balfour Leadership Training Workshop, this summer were proud to accept the Colony of the Year award from the International Fraternity, signifying the Auburn colony as the most outstanding Sigma Chi colony internationally in the past year. Our brothers have worked extremely hard to get this chapter back on its feet, so receiving recognition for that effort means so much. Our goal is to carry this momentum to eventually become recipients of the Peterson Significant Chapter Award.

### A LOOK INTO THE FALL SEMESTER

Our social calendar is shaping up to be the best yet, with swaps planned with many sororities and several date and band parties already booked. The chapter hopes for another

successful intramural sports season, and with several of our new members being former high school athletes, expectations are high. After a successful recruitment, Gamma Sigma is proud to welcome twenty-eight new pledges.

With the house officially occupied, we are adjusting to the new freedoms and responsibilities that go along with living in such a nice facility. As the school year begins, our brothers look forward to running our first initiation later in the semester and sharing our love for Sigma Chi and its values with the next group of Sigs at Auburn.

In Hoc,  
**Fischer Hawkins '21**  
Tribune

## Postgrad Preparation Undergraduate Men Take Steps Toward Career Success



**Ryan Barnes '20** spent his summer as an information technology intern at Comcast's Central Division Headquarters in Atlanta, Ga. His primary focus was IT project management, business process improvement, innovation, and analytics.



**Gregory Crook '20** spent his summer as an intern for Congressman Drew Ferguson of Georgia's 3rd Congressional District. His duties included formatting congressional reports, attending congressional briefings, and conducting tours of the capital.



**Stuart DiBoyan '22** was a dental assistant this summer. He assisted dentists with their various instruments and materials, took X-rays, and sterilized equipment.



**Ross Jones '20** is a senior majoring in wildlife ecology and management. Ross spent his summer with Auburn University's Poultry Research Unit assisting research teams with their experimental trials.



**Richmond Maddox '22** spent his summer interning for the University of Florida Athletics Department. He focused on fundraising by reaching out to donors interested in making contributions to athletics.



**Will Odom '20** spent his summer as a procurement intern for Georgia Pacific in Brunswick, Ga. Over 12 weeks he worked in purchasing at a cellulose plant while working on several high-profile projects for the company.

# Alumni Update

**Harry Donovan '42** enlisted into the military the day after he graduated from Auburn. He became a B-17 "Flying Fortress" pilot and made over 20 missions with the 379th Bomb Group out of Kimbolton, England.

**Charles Bryan II '65** lived in Atlanta for almost 28 years. In 2000, he bought an old house in Apalachicola, Fla., then moved to Americus, Ga., in 2010. In 2016, he moved to an assisted living home for two and a half years. Charles now spends as much time at his house in Apalachicola as possible. "It's a great getaway!" he shared.

**Thomas Sims Jr. '92** enjoys life as an empty nester. His son, Thomas, attends the University of Florida and his youngest son, Will, attends Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia. Thomas tries to get together with Orlando-area brothers **Jere Daniels '90**, **Vince Smith '92** and **Jim Daniels '89** to catch the Auburn football games. He hopes to get to Auburn to see a game in person soon. Thomas works in the airport lighting industry and enjoys fishing and travel.

**Coleman Kitchens '19**, the first graduate of the Gamma Sigma Chapter since our rechartering, served as our first Consul, graduated with a civil engineering degree, and is the chapter's graduate advisor this fall.



# THE AUBURN SIG

Gamma Sigma Alumni of Sigma Chi, Inc.  
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*Attention: This newsletter is intended for alumni and parents. If your son is still attending Auburn University, he will receive a copy at the chapter house. If he has graduated, please send us his permanent address. Thank you.*

## Welcome, Fall Pledge Class

### Christian Clark '23

Biomedical Sciences

### Sam Clay '23

Conservation and Biodiversity

### Smith Collins '23

Engineering

### Jack Corrigan '23\*

Pre-Business

(**David Martin, Wesleyan University '60**)

### Aaron Douglas '20

Mechanical Engineering

### Grayson Fuller '23\*

Finance

(**John Weichel, Alden Weichel, Harrison Fuller '21, Hudson Baird**)

### Sam Garvin '22

Computer Science and Engineering

### Eli Gurner '23

Communications

### Anthony Iannone '23

Business

### Alex Litwin '23

Mechanical Engineering

### Ryan Litwin '23

Computer Science

### Jeremy McDaniel '22

Finance

### Miller Murchison '22

Health Services Administration

### Chris Novellino '23

Biomedical Sciences

### Ethan Ourada '23\*

Engineering  
(**Hayden Ourada, Georgia Tech '21**)

### Patrick Priest '23\*

Pre-Aerospace Engineering  
(**William Priest, Oklahoma State '87**)

### Gavin Rigor '23

Mechanical Engineering

### Nolan Rittiner '23\*

Building Science  
(**Mark Rittiner, University of Tennessee**)

### Wyatt Russell '23\*

Pre-Dentistry  
(**Blue Russell, University of North Alabama '90**)

### Braydon Schick '23\*

Exploratory  
(**John Schick '93**)

### Colby Shelton '23

Business Management

### Maxwell Smith '23

Business

### Grantland Stone '22\*

Chemical Engineering  
(**Jack Harris '60**)

### Bennett Thompson '23

Biomedical Science

### Kaleb Tindall '23\*

Marketing  
(**John Tindall, Murray State '96**)

### Taylor Williams '23

Finance

### John Allen Wise '23

Pre-Business

### Ellis Zhang '23

Pre-Med Biomedical Sciences

\*Legacy; relation in parentheses



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