

THE AUBURN SIG

FALL 2020

SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY AT AUBURN UNIVERSITY



Brothers visit a memorial for Sigma Chi founder James Parks Caldwell.



Gamma Sigma is proud to wave the biggest American flag on Auburn's campus in front of the chapter house.

SAFETY FIRST AT GAMMA SIGMA

House Corporation Keeps Health of Active Chapter in Mind with Recent Updates

Much has changed at Gamma Sigma in 2020. We were disappointed to evacuate the chapter house in March due to COVID-19 concerns, but thankfully reopened the doors of our beloved home this fall. We had the house disinfected, sanitized, and deep cleaned to prepare for the re- occupancy by the active chapter. The health of our undergraduate brothers has without a doubt been our top priority throughout the pandemic.

Additional safety precautions we have taken include the installation of hand sanitizing stations. Of course there is an expense that comes with these extra cleaning measures, so we're always looking for other ways to save money. One way we're planning to cut costs over time is by adding shading in the dining room. This will help reduce power consumption and provide the undergraduates an ideal room to hold initiations and chapter meetings.

It was important to the house corporation that the chapter house be in tip-top shape when the undergraduates moved back in this fall. We did exactly that by touching up all the walls, doors, and trim throughout the house. We also added security cameras and are assisting the actives with replacing the basketball goals. All things considered, we are in pretty good shape and are hoping for an uneventful rest of the academic year as far as upkeep and repair needs go.

The men of Gamma Sigma are looking forward to once again using the house to its full extent. Unfortunately, we must remind alumni that the house is closed to visitors to prevent potentially exposing our undergraduate brothers to COVID-19. The only alumni allowed in the chapter house for the time being are the chapter advisor, Grand Praetor, and house corporation members. If you are in town for a game, we hope you enjoy your visit, but ask that you remain outside of the property if you swing by the chapter house. Also, please note that since the chapter is on social probation with Auburn University, we won't allow any alcohol on the property until the probation has been served and finalized.

Our annual meeting was held on October 24. I enjoyed further discussing Gamma Sigma's future with everyone who joined via Zoom. Please don't hesitate to call me if you have any questions about Gamma Sigma.

In Hoc,
Reid Brown '81
(205) 542-0222
bsareid@hiwaay.net

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Welcome,
New Members

White Cross Society Supports Gamma Sigma Through Challenging Times

The Robert A. Benz White Cross Society (WCS) hosted a Zoom happy hour on September 10. There was a good crowd of WCS members that attended the meeting, as we provided them updates from the foundation, house corporation, and the chapter.

Foundation President **Alan Shackelford '90** updated us on the work they are doing to enhance the support provided to our brothers for scholarships and scholastic incentives. These enhancements are made possible by our WCS members. Treasurer **Bob Benz '60** also provided an update on the financial status of the foundation.

House Corporation President **Reid Brown '81** discussed many things that the corporation has been doing to deal with all the rules/restrictions arising from the COVID-19 virus. Reid also reported on the good planning work that the corporation is doing on our short- and long-term maintenance needs at the house, as well as the ongoing upkeep.

Chapter Advisor **Brian Snyder, Troy State '85**, gave us an overview of the COVID-19 situation at Auburn and the significant obstacles it has presented for conducting recruitment, a pinning ceremony, initiation, and many other things. Consul **James Buckley '21** joined Brian in providing an update on chapter activities. Gamma Sigma thrived academically during the spring semester with a 3.5 GPA, which ranked in the top 10 of fraternities on campus. The active chapter also won the Peterson Award

for the first time since 1993. That's an exceptional accomplishment for our relatively young and growing chapter. James was encouraged by the strong new member class Gamma Sigma welcomed this fall despite the trying circumstances caused by the pandemic.

While the active chapter is on social probation due to an unfortunate incident at winter formal last school year, James shared that the undergraduates have been on their best behavior since then. The probation period will last until March of 2021. Even during these challenging times, we had a very upbeat meeting with alumni offering their full support to Brian and James as needed going forward.

The White Cross Society and Gamma Sigma need alumni participation and support. If you are already a member of the WCS, I hope you will renew your support. If you are not a member, I hope you will consider joining. We will be sending an invitation to all alumni shortly after this newsletter is published. Thank you for your support of Sigma Chi, Auburn Sigma Chi Foundation, and the WCS.

In Hoc,
Fred McCallum '79
Capital Campaign Chairman
mccallumfred@gmail.com

Psst! You Can View The GAMMA SIGMA ALUMNI DIRECTORY ONLINE.

- Visit auburnsigmachi.com
- Click on Alumni Directory
- Enter the updated password: 1957WDE2010!

An Unusual but Successful Semester at Auburn Sig



Brothers wish Gamma Sigma sweetheart
Chloe Engle a happy birthday.

This fall has been very successful despite the current conditions. We currently have 42 pledges, and we are very excited to grow the chapter. Although social activities were not possible at the house this fall, we were able to conduct an excellent pledge program with both in person and online/virtual meetings. 2020 has been a challenging year to say the least, but I think that our new members benefitted tremendously from the Sigma Chi "Preparation for Brotherhood" program. Due to COVID and Auburn University restrictions, we were not able to hold a formal initiation ceremony this fall. We plan to initiate this outstanding pledge class in early 2021 and hope to be able to include as many alumni as possible.

We appreciate all of the tremendous alumni support that we have received since returning to campus and we wish you and your families a wonderful holiday season.

Merry Christmas and In Hoc,
James Buckley '21, Consul
(912) 334-2048 | jcb0103@auburn.edu



Gamma Sigma Executive Committee
celebrating at their end-of-year dinner.

CELEBRATING A LIFELONG BROTHERHOOD

How Bob Benz '60 Lent His Skills to Sigma Chi

Bob Benz '60 decided to join Sigma Chi based on lifelong friendships, and he has never regretted that decision. His choice was reaffirmed early on in his first term at Auburn, when he needed surgery and missed several weeks of class. "The brothers at Sigma Chi were immensely helpful, even finding me housing and transportation when I needed it," Bob remembers. "Needless to say, I was grateful for the assistance as an 18-year-old with no family support."

His bonds with the Gamma Sigma brothers only grew in those years, during which he served as treasurer and vice president. Whether it was chapter house gatherings, sporting events, or spending time with their housemother, Mrs. Peavy, Bob gained so much by learning from those around him with unique and diverse backgrounds.

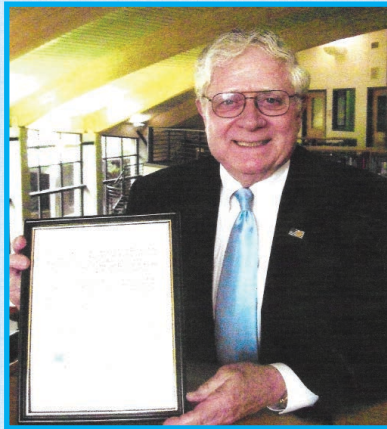
Bob served in the Army for two years beginning in 1955. While in college, he benefitted greatly from his scoutmaster and mentor, who was also a brother of Sigma Chi. He gave Bob the necessary encouragement and financial assistance to seek an accounting major, leading him to a great and fulfilling career. After graduation, Bob worked at Arthur Anderson & Co., the world's largest international accounting firm at the time, in New Orleans. He later returned to Pensacola for work, starting his own firm in 1967 and retiring in 2002. Bob also earned his master's degree from the University of West Florida and went on to teach accounting and taxation, history, and conduct World War II seminars at multiple Florida colleges.

In 1992, Bob petitioned the IRS on behalf of Gamma Sigma for a non-profit foundation. The request was granted, thus founding The Sigma Chi Foundation at Auburn University, Inc., which has been the chapter's fundraising arm ever since. Among his many commitments to Sigma Chi as an alumnus, Bob has served on the board, as president and treasurer and is currently on the investment and service committees. He was also a leader in two of Gamma Sigma's capital campaigns (including its most recent), and for his service both to the chapter and the general fraternity, he was named to the Order of Constantine in 2015—the highest individual honor in our fraternity.

Bob still lives in Pensacola, where he is active in many civic and social clubs, as well as a generous supporter of many local and international nonprofits. Though many of his Sigma Chi brothers have sadly passed away, he remains in close contact with a small group of close friends from Gamma Sigma.

In his free time, Bob enjoys researching new topics and spending time with his beloved family, including seven successful children, 19 precious grandchildren, and one adorable great-granddaughter. "They have given me all I have in love, pride, and accomplishment. An incredible group of people who have shaped my life."

You can reach Bob at bob.benz@yahoo.com.



Bob Benz '60 at the dedication of a United States flag he brought back from Guantanamo Bay. The flag was dedicated to several high school classmates who died in the service of our country as United States Marines. "It means a great deal to me, as they did," Bob said.

Welcome, New Members!

Russ Ansley
Spanish Fort, Ala.

Campbell Ayer*
Medfield, Mass.
Father and Uncle

William Boynton*
Nashville, Tenn.
Brother

Tucker Brant
Homewood, Ala.

Owen Camilli
Navarre, Fla.

George Cothren*
Homewood, Ala.
Father and Uncle

Colby Coughlin*
John's Creek, Ga.
Father

Jackson Culbreth
Vestavia Hills, Ala.

Dobbs Davie
Atlanta, Ga.

Carson Desocio*
Birmingham, Ala.
Great-Great-Grandfather

Brayden Dillon*
Kingsport, Tenn.
Cousin

Clay Duckworth
Raleigh, N.C.

Brennan Dwyer
Atlanta, Ga.

Jackson Engel
Birmingham, Ala.

Jack Felder
Savannah, Ga.

Logan Finkelstein
Summerville, S.C.

Matthew Gray
Vestavia Hills, Ala.

Davis Green
Auburn, Ala.

James Hancock*
Birmingham, Ala.
Grandfather

Harrison Hawkins*
Homewood, Ala.
Brother

Luke Haywood
Chelsea, Ala.

Jack Hodges*
Madison, Ala.
Father

Brandt Holem
Charleston, S.C.

Dawson Jernigan
Andalusia, Ala.

Luke Kraemer*
St. Louis, Mo.

Jackson Lee
Vestavia Hills, Ala.

Michael Lynden
Gainesville, Ga.

Jackson McCreless
Florence, Ala.

Colin McLaughlin
John's Creek, Ga.

Garrett Palmer
Hoover, Ala.

Justin Peeples
Andalusia, Ala.

Jack Rademaker*
Louisville, Ky.

Christopher Rota
Houston, Texas

Bryant Royster
Chelsea, Ala.

John Shelton
Hoover, Ala.

Alex Shilling*
Carrollton, Ga.
Father and Brother

Claude Simons*
Dallas, Texas
Uncle

Noah Tanner
Birmingham, Ala.

Will Tarter
Birmingham, Ala.

Noah Turner
Alabaster, Ala.

Carter Zulanias
Vestavia Hills, Ala.

*Legacy

Chapter Officers

Consul
James Buckley '21
(912) 334-2048
jcb0103@auburn.edu

Pro Consul
Luke Shilling '22

Annotator
Grantland Stone '22

Quaestor
Fischer Hawkins '21

Magister
Thomas McMillan '22

Risk Manager
Chris Bawcum '22

Recruitment Chairman
Kaleb Tindall '23
(205) 532-8390
ket0043@auburn.edu

Tribune
Connor Rose '22

Social Chairman
Brooks Berry '22

Scholarship Chairman
Alex Litwin '23



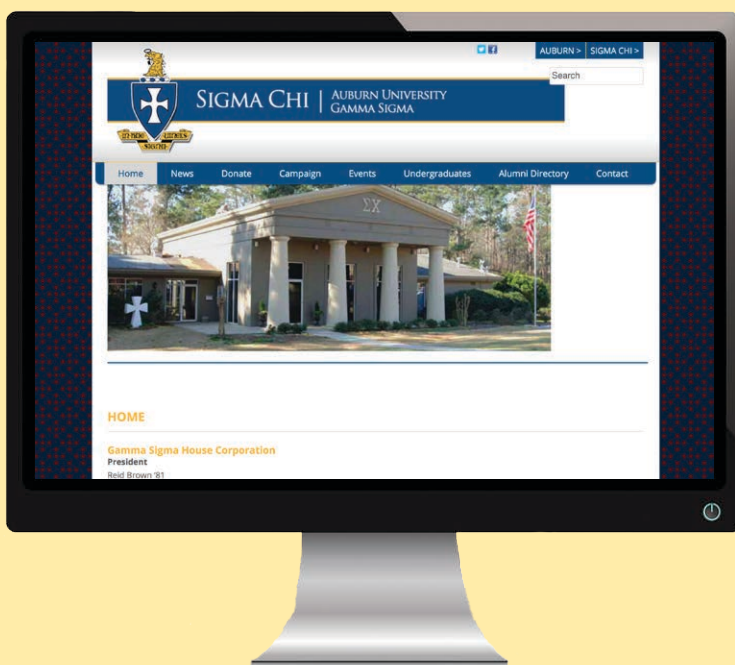
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Gamma Sigma Alumni of Sigma Chi, Inc.
P.O. Box 2367
Auburn, AL 36831-2367

Address Service Requested



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