

SPRING 2020

SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY AT AUBURN UNIVERSITY

# THE AUBURN SIG

## Gamma Sigma and the COVID-19 Pandemic

The real world hit home here in Alabama, and Gamma Sigma is no exception to this rule. The massive effects of the COVID-19 disease are being felt hard in Auburn and are being dealt with appropriately.

As the Gamma Sigma House Corporation, we were asked to follow Auburn University Housing Department's lead and shut down the fraternity house until we are notified that face-to-face learning will commence at Auburn. We are in full compliance. The students were all on spring break and many had already gone home. We gave a small grace period for the resident brothers to get into the house and retrieve their needed belongings before our lockdown. All electronic pass keys have been temporarily suspended. Access is only available through [Brian Snyder '85](#), [Inge Waddle '66](#), [Jordan Moseley '94](#) and me.

We are in the process of putting together a plan for the two graduating seniors and the one brother moving out to be able to come back to Auburn and clean out their rooms. It will be done with the full cooperation and adherence to guidelines from AU Housing and AU Greek Life. As per their instructions, our residents will have a few weekends before the spring semester ends to schedule a time to retrieve their belongings, gather numbers, facilitate key drops, etc., all while meeting the AU requirements on social distancing.

The House Corporation has already had the house deep cleaned (after the residents left to go home) to ensure the structure is as germ free as possible, and we will schedule a repeat of this process prior to the house being re-opened (either for the summer or fall semester).

We should be proud of the actives! They have handled this interruption with diplomacy and with a unified spirit that demonstrates the fraternity's ideals. I am sure that these young men will continue to display the positive Sigma Chi characteristics throughout the shut down and deal with all of its twists and turns appropriately.

On a separate note, once we re-open for business, you owe it to yourself to visit the house and take a quick tour. It is amazing. A great deal of work went into the renovation. But the result was well worth the time and effort. As the HC president, if I can ever answer any questions, or if you want to volunteer to come on board and help, please reach out to me at [bsareid@hiwaay.net](mailto:bsareid@hiwaay.net).

In Hoc,  
[Reid Brown '81](#), House Corporation President

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**See photos  
of the house  
on page 2!**

## Thankful for a Successful Campaign Moving Forward with the White Cross Society

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to more than 130 alumni, actives, parents, and friends of our Gamma Sigma Chapter for contributing over \$429,000 to Phase 1 and Phase 2 of our capital campaign. You have allowed our new brothers to move into a beautifully refurbished home at 737 W. Magnolia and have provided funds to allow continued educational support into the future.

Going forward, we will support our brothers through the Robert A. Benz White Cross Society (WCS). I hope you will continue your support by making a \$1,000 annual contribution and becoming a member of the WCS in response to our upcoming request. We will have a WCS party again this year for all our supporters.

Speaking of the party, we had a special day at our initial get together last September. We watched our Auburn Tigers whip up on Texas A&M in an exciting football game. After the game, we gathered for a group picture alongside our White Cross in the front yard.

Our program began with honoring [Bob Benz '60](#) for his lifelong contributions to Sigma Chi and our Gamma Sigma Chapter. Significant contributors (those who gave \$5,000 or more) were recognized for their contributions

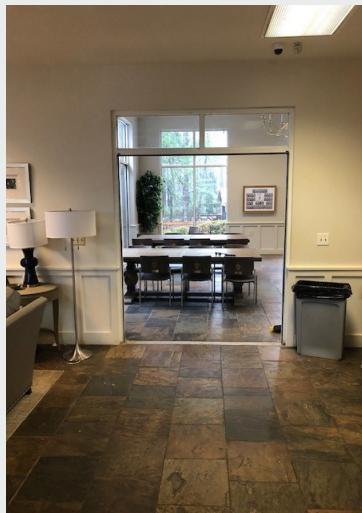
with a plaque in their honor that is now displayed on the dining room wall. John Smyth recognized chapter advisor [Brian Snyder, Troy '85](#), for his tireless leadership in guiding the Gamma Colony through the process of regaining our Sigma Chi charter at the initiation in April, and presented a plaque in Brian's honor that is now displayed in the house. [Inge Waddle '66](#) then gave the group a brief but informative history of our house before cutting the ribbon to dedicate the newly renovated home.

We received an update on the chapter's awards and accomplishments over the last several months from chapter annotator [Ryan Barnes '20](#), which included most recently being awarded the Colony of the Year award by the national fraternity at the Krach Transformational Leaders Workshop last summer.

Finally, scholarships were presented by President of the Foundation Board [Alan Shackleford '90](#) to deserving brothers. It was a great day, and I hope to see you at this year's event.

In Hoc,  
[Fred McCallum '79](#)  
Capital Campaign Chairman

# Alumni Gifts Made This Dream Become Reality



Main entrance, where the fireplace used to be.



The new dining room, which is smaller than the old dining room.



This was the old TV room with two walls removed.



This view is to the right of the entrance. This used to be part of the old dining room.



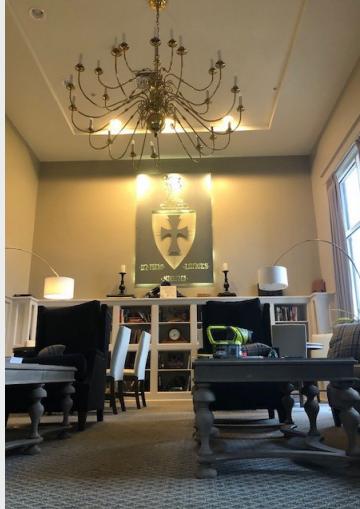
Buzzard Hall



The foyer.



This is the formal study just off the foyer, which was the pool room.



The formal study.

## Undergraduates Focused on Fostering Positive Brotherhood Atmosphere at Auburn

Gamma Sigma has made amazing strides since reinstallation last April. In fall 2019, we initiated 26 new brothers, and we initiated four more brothers this spring. As our numbers have grown, so has our presence on Auburn's campus. Our intramural teams have excelled, winning the flag football championship for the second year in a row, and finishing second in basketball.

### PHILANTHROPY UPDATE

This year would have been our first Derby Days campaign back on campus. We were extremely excited to engage the Auburn student body in Derby Days, as well as the Huntsman Cancer Institute, and are disappointed we were not able to execute the event due to the campus closure. We look forward to hosting Derby Days next year and growing our Panhellenic relationships.

### BROTHERS KEEP POSITIVE MINDSET DESPITE UNCERTAINTY SURROUNDING COVID-19

Along with the rest of the world, our chapter is experiencing an unprecedented situation related to COVID-19. Although the remainder of our spring semester may not look like it has in the past, we are grateful for our brothers and hopeful for what good this year might bring. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions, comments, or concerns



over the next year. Without the support of alumni, like you, we would not be where we are today.

In Hoc

**Connor Rose '22**

Gamma Sigma Chapter Tribune

# Gamma Sigma's Award-Winning Chapter Advisor

## We're in Good Hands with Brian Snyder, Troy '85

Gamma Sigma Chapter Advisor **Brian Snyder, Troy '85**, will be one of the first people to tell you that there is no "I" in team. Brian is proud of the team effort from the undergraduate brothers and alumni to get Sigma Chi started on the right foot since returning to Auburn.

The chapter's collective efforts garnered the Sigma Chi Colony of the Year award from the International Fraternity last spring, and the awards have continued to come in since being reinstalled at Auburn. Brian's dedication to Gamma Sigma was recognized last fall when he was named the Auburn Interfraternity Council Chapter Advisor of the Year at the Greek life banquet.

"I'm very grateful and flattered," Brian said. "Likewise, considering the short time Sigma Chi has been back on campus at Auburn, I was surprised that I/we were even considered. I note 'we' as I definitely consider it a group effort/award."

From his undergraduate days at Troy to being Gamma Sigma's chapter advisor and so much in between, Sigma Chi has given Brian a lot to be thankful for over the past 38 years.

"The experience has been very rewarding and gratifying, both personally and fraternally," Brian said. "Knowing what Sigma Chi means to me personally as well as to the alumni of the Gamma Sigma Chapter, particularly those who have been active in assisting our efforts, I am grateful for the opportunity to be involved."

Brian's commitment to Sigma Chi's values have been critical throughout his 34-year career in the insurance industry. He has spent nearly two years as a field sales leader at Allstate.

"It is much like my role as a chapter advisor for Sigma Chi," Brian said. "I have the opportunity

to work with independent contractors, small business owners to develop and grow their business. My reward is in their success."

Since taking on the role of chapter advisor,

Brian has become even more appreciative for the support he receives from his wife and children. Greek life means a lot to everyone in the Snyder family.

"Our son is also a Sigma Chi and my wife and our daughter were both in the same sorority, Alpha Gamma Delta, so we all share close bonds and friendship because of our fraternity and

sorority connections," Brian said.

"I can't express enough my appreciation and gratitude for the support and active involvement of Gamma Sigma alumni," Brian said. "Then again, that is the beauty of Sigma Chi in that our brothers understand that this is a lifelong commitment."

For Gamma Sigma to keep growing as a brotherhood, it's important for everyone to share Brian's team-first mindset. It's safe to say that Gamma Sigma is in good hands with Brian.

You can connect with Brian at bksynder22@gmail.com.

*"I'm very grateful and flattered. Likewise, considering the short time Sigma Chi has been back on campus at Auburn, I was surprised that I/we were even considered. I note 'we' as I definitely consider it a group effort/award."*

# ALUMNI UPDATE

## CHAPTER ETERNAL

**Dr. Frank Mathews III '57** entered Chapter Eternal on September 4, 2019, at the age of 84, from pancreatic cancer. Dr. Mathews was a graduate of Auburn University and the University of Alabama School of Dentistry. He served three years in the U.S. Army, including time in Korea. After five years of private practice in Montgomery, he moved to Atlanta to spend his entire career in public health. During these years, he acted as district dental director in Georgia and was very active in public health work throughout the state. He received many prestigious awards for his efforts to serve the people of Georgia, including the Jules Terry Memorial Award, the highest award in Georgia for public health workers. He was also involved in volunteer work for his church, the Cathedral of St. Philip of Atlanta.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Jerry Oakes '57** is a retired architect living in Brandon, Miss. He still thinks fondly on his Sigma Chi days. Email: oldoakes@hotmail.com

**Bill Suffich Jr. '61** served as a naval aviator 1961-66 with two tours in Vietnam consisting of 100 carrier landings and 120 combat missions. After his service, he went on to found three management companies that he operated until his retirement in 2007. Bill enjoyed coastal cruising on his yacht in the Bahamas until 2018 when he moved to Clark City to manage Timberland.

**James Gillikin '62** spends his time traveling and hiking. He lives in Decatur, Ala. Email: jgilli4864@gmail.com

**Michael Duggan '66** and his wife, Kathy, relocated in Colombia, S.C., and are loving their new home. Email: mikelduggan@bellsouth.net

**Joseph Power '69** is retired and lives in Talladega, Ala., with his sweetheart, Pam. Email: josephpowerjr@msn.com

**Burton Hewitt III '69** moved to Atlanta in 2018 to be closer to his children and grandchildren, and since his recent retirement, he looks forward to playing lots of golf. In March 2020, Burton went back

*(Continued on page 4)*

# ALUMNI UPDATE

(Continued from page 3)

to Vietnam to tour his old duty station. Email: burton.hewitt@gmail.com

**James Williams '70** is still practicing law, though not as much as in the past. He enjoyed the celebration of the renovated house and the new charter. "It looks great and the new brothers are outstanding," James said. Email: mikewilliamslaw@yahoo.com

**James LeFavour '74** appreciates the continued communication from the chapter. He hopes everyone keeps up the good work and Gamma Sigma legacy lives on. James sends all his prayers and the best of luck. Email: edgewaterrecords@bellsouth.net

**Dudley Cannada '76** is an architect and lives in Washington, D.C., and Edgartown, Mass. Email: cannadades@aol.com

**Charles "Mike" Henry Sr. '76** has been practicing architecture for 43 years. He has owned and operated his own business for 24 years. With no plans to retire, Mike has moved his office to the ground floor to avoid climbing the stairs so often. In his free time, he plays saxophone at Northside Christian Church. Mike and his wife, Diane, enjoy spending time with their children and grandchildren. Email: mhenry52@cox.net

**William Hartshorn '82** is the CEO of Geeks Without Frontiers, a company that facilitates delivery of communications in challenged populations. These include areas affected by disaster, conflict countries, refugee camps, and many others. Email: david@geekswf.org

**Jeffrey Smith '83** enjoys life on the plains and helping people find and sell homes. He would love to have more brothers retire to Auburn. Email: jrauburn@bellsouth.net

**Greg Ford '89** was initiated at Austin Peay State at Eta Xi Chapter where he graduated in 1988. In 1989, he moved into the Gamma Sigma Chapter house at Auburn to work toward his MBA. Greg was known as the house dad, and he made many memories with the brothers of Gamma Sigma that he will always cherish. Email: jasennkim@comcast.net

**Hamilton Harp '15** works for a payment processing company in Columbus, Ga. In exciting news, he is getting married in May. Hamilton looks forward to starting his life with his wife. Email: harp706@gmail.com



# THE AUBURN SIG

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## White Cross Society Dinner 2019



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