



# THE AUBURN SIG

SPRING 2023

SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY AT AUBURN UNIVERSITY

## Our House Is in Capable Hands

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Welcome,  
New Brothers

**T**his has been a very eventful school year for the house corporation! I am thankful for all the guys who are serving and appreciate their time and talents. We are a strong house corporation board and look to improve. We have added two new members and replaced one long-standing member.

#### Solving a Christmas Crisis

Over Christmas break, Auburn experienced a string of consecutive days that never rose above 25 degrees. On Christmas day, we received a call and were told that our sprinkler pipes had burst, and we had a major water leak problem. Luckily, Chapter Advisor **Brian Snyder '85** was there and got the ball moving. We were fortunate to have all damages repaired quickly so the chapter could reenter the house for the spring semester by January 10.

Since the fire department turned off all utilities during this event, we had to replace the two water heaters for the dorm and repair an ice maker and a dishwasher, none of which was covered by insurance. On top of that, we found a ground water leak in the party barn well afterward, so an additional plumbing repair was made. Thanks to **Sean Coughlin '81** and Brian for managing that disaster relief effort. As always, **Ben Palmer '82** keeps our finances right and was invaluable throughout the process.

#### Setting Up for Summer

We are now moving toward our normal summer maintenance program. We replaced the drinking fountain in the dorm with a new unit that has a bottle filler. We also

finished an electrical and lighting upgrade to the party barn and will soon be looking at mounting the current speakers and getting them wired in permanently as well.

Some long-term issues arising are the replacement of the deck around the party barn, normal wear-and-tear replacement of electrical items throughout the house, and some additional outdoor lighting to illuminate the white cross in front of the house.

#### Visitors Welcome

The new patio looks great. The chapter added some additional counter space as well. Our backyard sod project has grown in nicely and looks very green! Auburn managed to clean out the undergrowth to the west of the house, and that makes the yard look better as well.

We are moving forward with our plan to replace/renovate the property. We are in the infancy of this, and our next steps will include doing a study to determine facility needs, size, etc. This will become a big project for us. As brothers, we will all need to play a part. If you could be of assistance, please reach out. We would certainly welcome the much-needed help.

I hope to see you at the house soon. If in Auburn, make sure you stop by. We have a great chapter and are getting stronger year by year.

In Hoc,  
**Reid Brown '81**  
House Corporation President

## Why They Joined Sigma Chi

"I joined Sigma Chi to find a smaller community of like-minded gentlemen within the greater Auburn community. I was seeking friendship, brotherhood, and opportunities for growth, and I believe that I found that here."

—**Luke De Grosz**

"I joined Sigma Chi because I could tell the brothers had a bond bigger than themselves and their values aligned with mine. I wanted to meet new people and learn what true brotherhood really is."

—**William Handley**

"I needed a healthy family to better myself for my college experience as well as commit myself to a lifelong brotherhood that also represents my personal values."

—**Sean Givens**

"Sigma Chi was the only fraternity that I felt welcomed into during recruitment. Also, I could tell that people actually wanted to get to know me and that they cared about this fraternity."

—**Carter Zitttrouer**



# Choosing to Serve One Another

## WHAT BROTHERHOOD MEANS TO CECIL STOKES JR. '58

When we make choices in life, we don't always realize how impactful they might be. **Cecil Stokes Jr. '58** knows Sigma Chi was right for him, but in college it was a difficult decision between that and another bid rarely declined in those days. In the end, Cecil chose Sigma Chi because of the White Cross, its hometown reputation, and the warm welcome from brothers like **Drew Ragan '56**, **Strick Newsom '55**, and **A.J. Grant '56**. "My father had misgivings about my decision, but that was reversed decades later when he learned that Gamma Sigma was born from the local chapter he would have pledged had his father not opposed fraternities."

Had Cecil not made that choice, he wouldn't have made some lasting friendships, nor would he have been Gamma Sigma's delegate for the Centennial Grand Chapter meeting in 1955. When new at work in north Alabama, he would not have met **Ernie Eltz '57** for a drink, which ultimately led to meeting his wife, Shirley. And he never would have had a lasting impact on the chapter house that today's young brothers still enjoy.

### A HOME TO BE PROUD OF

The chapter house was under construction when Cecil was a freshman. He joined A.J. Grant, an architecture student, in inspecting construction progress alongside alumni. As a senior, Cecil chaired the team that designed and contracted the parking lot that still serves brothers and guests today. Years later, he joined the campaign to rebuild the house, for a time leading design and contractor interface efforts. This was the result of an arm twist from **Bob Benz '61**, a friend since early freshman days, his Little Brother, and a deserving Constantine Sig. Cecil went on to serve 27 years on the house corporation board (including terms as secretary and vice president), through which he worked on even more house updates.

Cecil has proudly supported Gamma Sigma's home to help with recruitment efforts as well as quality of life for members and their guests. "The house is not the dominant influence on the behavior of its members, but it is certainly not immaterial," he said. "A fraternity solely dependent on funding and leadership from undergraduates will be at a disadvantage to fraternities with solid alumni support."

### LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Cecil graduated from Auburn with a degree in mechanical engineering and worked for Thiokol (now a part of Northrop-Grumman) in the aerospace and defense industry for decades, retiring at age 59 when his facility closed due to industry shrinkage. Most of his work focused on the development and production of solid-propellant rocket motors, which appear in the Patriot, Maverick, and Hellfire missiles that served American forces in the first Iraq war and later conflicts. Along the way, Cecil earned an MBA degree from Vanderbilt and went on to teach at Athens State University. Upon retiring, he moved on to volunteer work with the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) and then to profitable part-time consulting work lasting still.

One of Cecil's proudest experiences was as chairman of his church's campaign to build a new sanctuary and additional buildings, funded at several million dollars. He credits his success in leading that effort and working with skilled professionals to his work on Gamma Sigma's chapter house. "The education I received in classrooms and laboratories was valuable, but so was the time I spent dealing with fraternity construction and other issues."

### BROTHERS SUPPORT BROTHERS

Cecil's postgrad Sigma Chi involvement began with regular visits back to campus and football games (home and away). He and Gamma Sigma brothers like **Charles Darwin '57** connected with local brothers from several other chapters to form the Huntsville Alumni Chapter. The group enjoyed helping many chapters with recruitment and even helped start a chapter at what is now the University of North Alabama; this Eta Rho chapter recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. He now enjoys meeting with alumni of that chapter and other chapters as members of the North Alabama Alumni Chapter.

Today, Cecil keeps an email list of brothers from his era, frequently sending news and Facebook updates about important events in one another's lives. "Unfortunately, much of that news is sad as we announce transitions to the Chapter Eternal—but it is part of our brotherly love."



Cecil lives in Huntsville, Alabama, and can be reached at [cstokes@hiwaay.net](mailto:cstokes@hiwaay.net).

## Congratulations, Graduating Seniors

**Tucker Brant '23**  
[trbrant25@icloud.com](mailto:trbrant25@icloud.com)  
Management of Information Systems

**James Buckley '23**  
[jbuckley97@gmail.com](mailto:jbuckley97@gmail.com)  
Major

**Christian Clark '23**  
[christiantclark@comcast.net](mailto:christiantclark@comcast.net)  
Medicine

**Robert Smith Collins '23**  
[smithcollins2k@gmail.com](mailto:smithcollins2k@gmail.com)  
Mechanical Engineering

**Aaron Crowder '23**  
*email*  
Science in Health Services Administration  
(working at Andrews Sports Medicine and Orthopedic Center in Birmingham)

**Jackson Engel '23**  
[jme797@outlook.com](mailto:jme797@outlook.com)  
Economics

**Grayson Fuller '23**  
[graysonfuller440@gmail.com](mailto:graysonfuller440@gmail.com)  
Finance

**Anthony Iannone '23**  
[tonymi2001@gmail.com](mailto:tonymi2001@gmail.com)  
Finance

**Ryan Litwin '23**  
[ryanlitwin1@gmail.com](mailto:ryanlitwin1@gmail.com)  
Computer Science

**Arnav Mathur '23**  
[arnav.mathur1@gmail.com](mailto:arnav.mathur1@gmail.com)  
Electrical Engineering

**Justin Peebles '23**  
[peeplesjustin12@gmail.com](mailto:peeplesjustin12@gmail.com)  
Finance

**Patrick Priest '23**  
[pwpriest@att.net](mailto:pwpriest@att.net)  
Building Science

**John Grantland Stone '23**  
[jgstonejr@icloud.com](mailto:jgstonejr@icloud.com)  
Mechanical Engineering

**Bennett Thompson '23**  
[bthompson2209@att.net](mailto:bthompson2209@att.net)  
Building Science

**Connor Warren '23**  
[connorwarren5787@gmail.com](mailto:connorwarren5787@gmail.com)  
Major

**Ellis Zhang '23**  
[ejunriz@gmail.com](mailto:ejunriz@gmail.com)  
Medicine



## Gamma Sigma Progress

### Active Members Strive for Success



From left: brothers Vincent Indovina '25, February Aba '26, and Colin Rigor '25 serve as Camp War Eagle counselors.

The spring semester was a growing phase for the chapter. We collaborated to emplace more activities and improvements as we evolve over time. This was exemplified in this year's Derby Days. Our director of Derby Days, **Tucker Brant '23**, secured 12 organizations to sponsor this year's festivities. Thanks to participation from all 18 sororities, we are very proud to announce that we raised nearly \$63,000 for the Huntsman Cancer Foundation, which puts Gamma Sigma among the top chapters for this year's Derby Days.

We successfully initiated nine pledges this spring that I know will help this chapter improve in the future. We also have 16 active members graduating, and we wish them the best in their future endeavors.

Our fall grade report awarded us with a GPA of 3.16, ranking 13th among all Auburn fraternities, with 32 members making the dean's list. Our executive committee is making academics a top priority, and we have been holding members more accountable as we strive to get back into the top 10.

This semester, we had members serve as assistant vice presidents and directors in the Student Government Association. Another was named a court officer for the Interfraternity Council, and members joined IFC cabinet, honor societies such as Lambda Sigma Honor Society, Involvement Ambassadors, and numerous other on-campus organizations. We have also focused on better communication and collaboration with Headquarters to update our chapter's strategic plan, making notes of how to improve specific areas of the chapter.

This semester has allowed us to build on the foundation set by those in the past and improve the chapter as a brotherhood. My expectations for the fall are to set our goals even higher and provide the necessary framework to be achieved. I have no worries that the chapter will flourish even more in the future.



In Hoc,  
**Michael Lynden '24**  
Consul

## Chapter Officers

Consul  
**Michael Lynden '24**

Pro Consul  
**Dylan McQueen '25**

Annotator  
**Cooper Cantrelle '25**

Quaestor  
**Davis Leeth '24**

Magister  
**Jake Davis '25**

Risk Manager  
**Trey Larson '25**

Recruitment Chairman  
**Hughes Orr '26**

Kustos  
**Will Garner '25**

Social Chairman  
**Carson DeSocio '24**

House Manager  
**Logan Ferris '25**

Scholarship Chairman  
**Brock Baker '25**

Historian  
**Gage Hughes '25**

Tribune  
**Jackson Haden '24**

Director of Derby Days  
**Tucker Brant '23**

Philanthropy Chairman  
**Colin McLaughlin '23**

Tailgate Chairman  
**Kemp Guas '24**

Brotherhood Chairman  
**Jake Eggleston '24**

Diversity Chairman  
**Colin Rigor '25**

## Honoring Alumni, Awarding Actives



Alumni and active brothers gather for the annual White Cross Society reception.

### Annual WCS Reception

On April 1, 2023, the Robert A. Benz White Cross Society held its annual reception at the Sigma Chi house in Auburn. The event was attended by several alumni with an impressive turnout of active brothers.

The event started with a late-afternoon meet-and-greet with some great appetizers and drinks. Earlier in the spring semester, the chapter voted to name the consul's suite in honor of former Grand Consul **Buddy Metcalf '69**. Fortunately, the WCS reception coincided with the dedication, and the chapter and WCS were honored to host Buddy's wife, Jean, and their daughter, Melissa, for the dedication ceremony.

The Sigma Chi Foundation at Auburn University also awarded four \$2,500 scholarships to these very deserving active members:

**Alexander Litwin '23**  
Birmingham, Ala.  
GPA, Mechanical Engineering

**Colin McLaughlin '24**  
Johns Creek, Ga.  
3.4 GPA, Professional Flight

**Elijah Gurner '24**  
Vestavia Hills, Ala.  
GPA, Secondary Social Science Education

**Ben Bigham '26**  
Auburn, Ala.  
4.0 GPA, Accountancy

We thank all the alumni who have contributed to the White Cross Society and the Foundation and hope to see more of you next year.

In Hoc,  
**Alan Shackelford '90**  
Sigma Chi Foundation President

# Alumni Update

## CHAPTER ETERNAL

Robert Watson '66 - September 1, 2022

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Peter Kenyon '60** lives in Cumming, Ga. Peter served on the National Alumni Board from 1970-72 and on the School of Education Board and Business School Board. Peter is originally from Liverpool, England, and spent his career in international banking with Wells Fargo until his retirement in 1992.  
Email: oakbendman@gmail.com

**Jim Zumwalt Jr. '63** retired from general contracting in 2005, moving on to start a cattle ranch. Jim lives in Old Town, Fla.  
Email: zpbranch@yahoo.com

**George Dunbar Jr. '73** resides in Franklin, Tenn. His consulting/advisory business is going strong in life science work. George joined an alumni group in Nashville called Music City Sigs, and he hopes his grandson goes to Auburn and joins Gamma Sigma.  
Email: thedunbargroup@gmail.com

**Chuck Self Jr. '77** lives in Cumming, Ga. He enjoys regular dinner gatherings with many brothers in the Atlanta metro area, including **Richard Krysiak '78**, **Don Burke '79**, **Charles Henagen '79**, **Michael Seyfried, M.D. '79**, **Alvah Smith '79**, **Bruce Stout '79**, **Scott Tiedt '79**, and a Little Sig, Terry Block.

**Skip Coleman III '81** lives in Arlington, Va. He retired from Accenture in September 2017, later working on a start-up golf business for about four years. Skip enjoys golf and time with family and friends in Arlington and Lake Mary, Fla.  
Email: skipcoleman3@gmail.com

**Craig Smith '82** started working independently in 1996, selling and marketing products for industrial water treatment. His wife, Angela, is a real estate professional and entrepreneur. Craig and Angela enjoy tennis and great food. They reside in Lake Worth Beach, Fla.  
Email: craigbillingtonsmith@gmail.com

**Ed Long '88** resides in Southport, Conn. His firm was again ranked in CNBC's top 100 advisors in the country for the fourth year in a row. Email: eelongus@yahoo.com

**Brian O'Neil '03** resides in Auburn, Ala. He started a nonprofit, Third Lens, in 2009 with Gamma Sigma brothers. Brian serves as the nonprofit's president. The ministry oversees \$150 million in humanitarian construction projects. You can read more about Third Lens at third-lens.org. Email: oneilbp@gmail.com



# THE AUBURN SIG

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

Address Service Requested



## WELCOME, NEW BROTHERS

### FALL 2022

February Aba | Dothan, Ala.  
Ben Bigham | Auburn, Ala.  
Thomas Bottcher\* | Baton Rouge, Ala.  
Camden Cantrelle\* | Mandeville, La.  
Hudson Carter\* | Marietta, Ga.  
Ryan Cole | Roswell, Ga.  
Ford Copeland | Madison, Miss.  
Jack Cotney | Fairhope, Ala.  
Fort Edmonds\* | Vestavia Hills, Ala.  
John Edwards | Birmingham, Ala.  
Caden Erckenbrack\* | Alpharetta, Ga.  
Brice Floyd | Milton, Ga.  
Andrew Fogel | Birmingham, Ala.  
Ethan Gutowski | Birmingham, Ala.  
Jackson Haden | Birmingham, Ala.  
Logan Hall | Birmingham, Ala.  
William Handley | Homewood, Ala.  
Cole Hill | Gadsden, Ala.  
Grayson Knapp | Atlanta, Ga.  
Josh Knight\* | Birmingham, Ala.  
Joseph Lillis | Birmingham, Ala.  
Jon-Matthew Mattson\* | Hoover, Ala.  
Parker McIntyre | Chelsea, Ala.  
Timothy Meade | Chicago, Ill.  
Landon Miller | Birmingham, Ala.  
Graham Miner | Homewood, Ala.  
Joseph Mudano | Birmingham, Ala.  
Jack Nichols | Vestavia Hills, Ala.  
Wilson Novak\* | Brentwood, Tenn.  
Griffin O'Neal | Birmingham, Ala.

Hughes Orr\* | Hoover, Ala.  
William Packer | Dallas, Texas  
Nick Palmisano | Woodstock, Ga.  
Sam Rademaker | Louisville, Ky.  
Robert Rebman | Chelsea, Ala.  
Lawson Robinson | Birmingham, Ala.  
David Saucedo | Birmingham, Ala.  
Vaughn Schneider | Birmingham, Ala.  
Clay Shackelford | Hoover, Ala.  
John Speegle | Vestavia Hills, Ala.  
Jack Taylor | Hoover, Ala.  
Jett Thomas | Chelsea, Ala.  
William Van Wezel | Birmingham, Ala.  
Harrison Webber | Marietta, Ga.  
Adams White | Destin, Fla.  
Carter Zitttrouer | Athens, Ga.

### SPRING 2023

Nicholas Balga | Atlanta, Ga.  
Aidan Clonts | Johns Creek, Ga.  
Thomas Davis | Birmingham, Ala.  
Luke De Grosz | San Mateo, Calif.  
Nathan Foster | Auburn, Ala.  
Sean Givens | Mobile, Ala.  
Benjamin Hull | Auburn, Ala.  
Nicholas Leonard | Alpharetta, Ga.  
Tyler Pollino | Johns Creek, Ga.  
C.J. Sahlman | Greenville, S.C.

\* Legacy