

*"The men who learn endurance are they who call the whole world brother."*

Charles Dickens



# The Rose & Star

Gamma Alpha • Sigma Nu Fraternity • Georgia Tech  
Atlanta, Ga. • June 2005

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## Alumni

# Profile

Bill Poland '64

## For Bill Poland, Sigma Nu Connected the Dots on the Road to Success

Today, in 2005, Bill Poland, Sigma Nu '64, is a successful real estate developer, head of his own company and happy in both career and family. In 1963, when he came to Georgia Tech from his home in Houston, Texas, he was "green, just a child." Though Bill's had many influences and experiences as he charted his path to success, he gives Sigma Nu a fair share of the credit.

"Sigma Nu really allowed me to connect the dots, in that I left Georgia Tech with an enormous amount of confidence in my abilities to succeed," he says. "The interaction with my Sigma Nu brothers led me to become more mature. We shared our successes and our failures, and I learned a lot about empathy. Certainly, my fraternity experiences allowed me to become an effective leader."

After graduation from Georgia Tech, Bill went west, to study for his MBA at Stanford University in California. While still working toward that degree, he discovered a passion for real estate. He began working in real estate development in 1971 and founded the Bay West Group in 1979. The company now has 60 employees in their San Francisco office and 30 in Seattle. "We've had great success," he says. "And, more importantly, we've been able to do good things in the communities we work in."



*(Continued on Page 2)*

## Enduring Values

Endurance ... it is a concept that most of us identify with athletes ... runners, swimmers, and cyclists. It is also how politicians win key races, attorneys win important cases and businesses exceed year-end goals.

And it is how Sigma Nu at Georgia Tech has continued to thrive. As we look ahead to our goals for 2005 and beyond, what are we without the ability to follow through with all that we must — launching new projects, maintaining our existing alumni relations program, planning new events, etc. — to ensure the health of our fraternity?

Our annual fund is a key source of energy and power for our organization, enabling us to communicate with our most valued asset — the alumni of Gamma Alpha. Remember, the annual fund supports the many alumni relations efforts, including our newsletter, The Rose & Star, our website, [www.sigmanugt.com](http://www.sigmanugt.com) and a

monthly e-letter, that have helped us all stay connected.

Many alumni have already made personal tributes to our fraternity through their in this newsletter. If you have not already given are you ready to join them? This year, **consider a gift to the 2004-05 annual fund.** We are hopeful you will see how vital your role is to the endurance of Sigma Nu at Georgia Tech. If your name does not appear in this issue, but you made a donation, your payment may not have been processed in time for this mailing. We thank you for your support and will acknowledge your gift in an upcoming publication. You can also log on to our Web site to make your contribution, update your contact information, **especially your email address**, and post a news update. You can also call to make a credit card contribution by phone at 800-975-6699. ■

Bill went through rush as a freshman and received invitations from several fraternities, but he joined Sigma Nu because he hit it off with Tom Buckler, who would become his Big Brother. "Also, I had a mentor back in Houston -- the father of a friend of mine -- who had recommended me to Sigma Nu," he said. "I had it in the back of my mind that it would please him for me to join Sigma Nu."

Bill soon became friends with the men of Sigma Nu and shared a lot of great times with them. Bill -- most guys in the House called him "Poland" -- remembers a particular rainy day when he and several friends spent hours sliding down a grassy slope. "I almost sliced my finger off," he recalls.

"We had a very good touch football team," he says. "We won the intramural championship that year. It was a great thrill: there were real crowds at the games and it was all very exciting." As with many fond memories, it was the feelings Bill recalled rather than the details; he couldn't remember for certain what position he played!

Another fond memory for Bill involves just sitting around the house on a Sunday, swapping stories about the great party the night before. These were the kinds of

shared experiences that built lifetime friendships. In addition to roommate **Fred Link**, Bill stays in touch with **Dave Bassett**, **John Stanford** and **Ted Tomasovich**. Just last month, he attended a Sigma Nu-Georgia Tech reunion on Anna Maria Island in the Gulf of Mexico. "There were 21 Sigma Nus -- some a few years ahead of me, some a few years younger. But there wasn't one man that I didn't know. It was a great time!"

In addition to serving the chapter as Eminent Commander, Bill was active in student government. After stints as the representative for the sophomore and junior classes, he served as senior class president. He's quick to point out, though, that he had been elected to the vice president position and took over the president's duties "only when the other guy flunked out!"

Bill is currently on the executive committee and board of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce and is active with the Bay Area School Reform Collaboration, a group that works with children in underprivileged schools. A sports lover, he is on the board of the Charles Schwab Cup, a golf tournament, and the Emerald Bowl, an annual college football game. He has previously served as City Councilman for the city of Ross,

California and as chairman of the San Francisco Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Bill has been married to Mary for 23 years and has a son, Stratton, whom they call Stratt, now 14 years old. "My wife is very pretty," he says. "She is eight years younger than I am, but looks 30 years younger." He's proud of Stratt, too: "He plays lacrosse and the piano and gets straight A's. And he's a great kid."

Bill says his plans for the future are to "do more of the same. I word hard when

I'm working, but I make the time to enjoy myself." On the agenda this year are trips to play golf in Ireland and Scotland and a trip with his family to Botswana and Zambia. "My philosophy is that I'm 60 going on 40." A sure sign of a happy man. ■

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*"The interaction with my Sigma Nu brothers led me to become more mature. We shared our successes and our failures, and I learned a lot about empathy. Certainly, my fraternity experiences allowed me to become an effective leader."*

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The Second Annual Gathering of Snakes was held in memoriam of the following brothers:

**George Fauerbach**

**Ross Miller**

**Jim "Tea Bag" Neal**

**Jack Painter**

**Lane "Sheep" Crocker**

**Billy "Wild Man" Adams**

**Jay E. Gillett**

**Cleve Doster**

**Dick Clotworthy**

**Jack Gage**

**Judge "the Preacher" Peebles**

## Brother Remembered At Reunion

The second annual Gathering of Snakes took place on April 29-30 on Anna Maria Island in FL. Twenty-three brothers from the 1965-1972 era of Gamma Alpha gathered the weekend.

To say this was a fun time is an understatement. We hope those who couldn't make it will come next year! Along with all the fun time, there was also a chance to memorialize a brother we miss.

This year, 10 of us went to St Petersburg and built a memorial bench in honor of Jack Painter at the inner city school that Jack help establish in 1997.

Special thanks go to **David Bassett** and **Jim Meyer**, who made this happen, and to **Fred Link** for the great cooking! I hope you are all enjoying the four "soul tunes" CD set as much as I am. To see more photos, go to the website we set up for this event at <http://n6rc.homestead.com/SigmaNu.html>. ■



In Honor of Jack: Foreground -- **Bubba Smith, Pat Risen, Hugh Little** and standing -- **Dick Crouch, Hawley Smith, Steve Menke, Jim Meyer, Charlie Feuchter, Jim Allison, Dave Bassett, and John Thigpen**

## Gamma Alpha of Sigma Nu Officer Order

Eminent Commander <b>Jonathan Black</b>	House Risk Reduction <b>Frank Massa</b>
Lieutenant Commander <b>Ryan Nair</b>	LEAD Chairman <b>Harrison Hudgins</b>
Treasurer <b>Steven Bowden</b>	Athletics Chairman <b>Nick Petrus</b>
Recorder <b>Trace Tidwell</b>	Alumni Chairmen <b>Joey Rizzo; Sam Elrod</b>
Chaplain <b>Robert Black</b>	Fundraising Chairman <b>Geoff Feld</b>
Pledge Marshall <b>Harrison Hudgins</b>	Scholarship Chairman <b>Jon Skypeck</b>
Rush Chairman <b>Sean McNeal</b>	Community Service Chairman <b>Brent Rykowski</b>
Rush Organizer <b>Matt Loveless</b>	IFC Representative <b>Jason Plamp</b>
Kitchen Treasurer <b>David Thompson</b>	Pool Commanders <b>Greg Harding; Camp Scudder</b>
Kitchen Administrator <b>James Dreger</b>	Historians <b>Beau Walker; Jay Morris</b>
House Managers <b>Adam Pratt; Adam Dudenhoeffer</b>	Sentinel <b>Matt Williams</b>
Social Chairman <b>Jay Morris</b>	Philosophers <b>Harrison Hudgins; Ryan Lichtcsien ■</b>
Social Assistant <b>Beau Walker</b>	
Computer Chairman <b>Joey Rizzo</b>	

## Congratulations Graduates!

### Mark Dugger

Industrial Engineering Co-op  
Lawrenceville, GA  
[dugger24@hotmail.com](mailto:dugger24@hotmail.com)  
Will work as consultant with  
IBM consulting.

### Adam Rykowski

Industrial Engineering  
Alpharetta, GA  
[gte382z@mail.gatech.edu](mailto:gte382z@mail.gatech.edu)  
Accepted job with Marc  
Global, a Logistics and  
Supply Chain Consulting  
company.

### Clay Gienger

Industrial Design  
Snellville, GA  
[gtg828a@mail.gatech.edu](mailto:gtg828a@mail.gatech.edu)  
Plans to intern this summer  
and seek a full-time position  
in the fall.

### David Hannon

Civil Engineer  
Lilburn, GA  
[gtg012a@mail.gatech.edu](mailto:gtg012a@mail.gatech.edu)  
David plans to take classes  
and graduate in Oxford,  
England this summer. He  
will begin his job search  
when he returns in August.

### Michael Woelfl

Civil Engineering  
Snellville, GA  
[gtg565h@mail.gatech.edu](mailto:gtg565h@mail.gatech.edu)  
Will work with his father  
for his father's construction  
company. ■

# State of the Chapter

## Sigma Nu Membership Continues to Grow

*By Jonathan Black, Gamma Alpha of Sigma Nu Commander*

The Gamma Alpha chapter had a very successful spring. We had the "Voice of the Yellow Jackets" Wes Durham speak at our bi-annual Steak and Beans Scholarship Dinner. Wes is a fantastic speaker and all the brothers acknowledged that the dinner was a great success.

Each spring, the brothers volunteer to help run the Atlanta Steeplechase, which benefits the Atlanta Speech School. Over 100 guests attended the chapter's family night for the parents and siblings of the active brothers.

Last fall Sigma Nu, for the second consecutive year, initiated 21 outstanding brothers into our fraternity. The brothers of Sigma Nu are very excited about the recent growth trend within the chapter. Already the rush for our 2005 pledge class is off to a great beginning. For the first time in recent memory, the chapter has a pledge before the end of the spring semester. In addition to our first pledge, we have 10 solid contacts before the start of summer. Sigma Nu's rush has great momentum, and we are confident that this momentum will continue throughout the summer and into autumn.

Sigma Nu National has implemented an accreditation program that evaluates a chapter in six areas: membership development, chapter development, chapter management, support structure, chapter governance, and campus and community involvement. The Gamma Alpha Chapter passed and we are considered a chapter in good standing. Our relationships with both our National Headquarters and the Inter-Fraternity Council continue to be strong.

We have taken steps to address our pledge class GPA which has been lower than other chapters. This fall we will implement National's pledge program, called the LEAD Program, which focuses on grades, time management, leadership, and campus involvement, but does not neglect brotherhood and fraternal history. Additionally, there will be required study hours and assigned brother tutors to help pledges. The Gamma Alpha chapter is committed to education and development of its new members, and we expect significantly better results in the GPA of our next pledge class.

One thing that Sigma Nu's have never needed help with is having a good time. This year was no exception. Our social chair **Jay Morris** provided a jam-packed social calendar. Our island party in the fall was excellent, and the brothers just returned from a memorable White Rose formal in Biloxi, MS.

Sigma Nu is a salutary chapter that is continuing to grow and improve. With our current momentum with rush, and with a new chapter house looming on the horizon, I expect that our current expansion will continue. This is a great time to be a Sigma Nu and I see nothing but prosperity in our future. ■

# Alumni UpDates

## James C. Baker

(378 Hunters Ridge, Marietta, GA 30068) Deceased May 12, 2004

## Milton W. Howard

(1598 Pounds Rd., Stone Mountain, GA 30087-3264) Deceased per news form dated April 5, 2005

## Roy V Harris '58

(140 Warehams Pt., Williamsburg, VA 23185-8925; [rharris83@cox.net](mailto:rharris83@cox.net))

## George A. Ethridge '95

(3502 Smuggler Way, Boulder, CO 80305; [aletheridge33@yahoo.com](mailto:aletheridge33@yahoo.com)) Living in Boulder, CO and working for a tech start-up company developing equipment for reducing power plant greenhouse gas emissions ([www.zolotech.com](http://www.zolotech.com)). I ski, hike, camp, bike etc...often. Come visit! ■

## We Need Your Feedback

We're conducting an electronic survey regarding our alumni relations program. Your feedback is valuable to us and we encourage your participation so we can improve. Go to [www.sigmanugt.com/survey.html](http://www.sigmanugt.com/survey.html) and fill it out. It will only take a few minutes of our time. We'll print the findings of the survey in a future issue of *The Rose & Star*. ■

## We want to hear from you!

Return the enclosed update form or log on to the website to update us with the latest from your world! Send a quick note about what you're doing these days...career, family, travel, brothers you stay in touch with, reunion plans, whatever you like. Be sure to send photos too! All mailed photos will be returned. If e-mailing your photos, please send in tif, jpg, gif or bmp format.

Send your update to Sigma Nu Fraternity  
GEORGIA TECH  
Alumni Relations Office  
P.O. Box 161188  
Atlanta, GA 30321-1188 or  
log on to [www.sigmanugt.com](http://www.sigmanugt.com). Your news will be published in the next issue of *The Rose & Star*. ■



Band of Brothers left to right: **Jim Allison, Dick Crouch, Ken Crawford, Guy Miller, and Tom Cauble**



Each spring, Sigma Nu actives volunteer to help run the Atlanta Steeplechase, which benefits the Atlanta Speech School.

NS 593-17

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