

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Speaker Series

Our Speaker Series has kicked off for the fall! Stay tuned to [www.sigmanugt.com](http://www.sigmanugt.com) for details on this semester's scheduled speakers.

### Homecoming Weekend

**October 28-29**

Vs. Clemson  
Kickoff TBA

#### Sigma Nu Events

Friday: Sigma Nu party  
Saturday: Ramblin' Wreck Parade, cookout at the house, football game

### Alumni Officers

#### President

**Alex Brown** (GA #1759)  
alex@htrjobs.com

#### Vice President

**Grant Norwood** (GA #1673)

#### Treasurer

**PJ Bain** (GA #1682)

#### Events Coordinator

**Kirk Leverone** (GA #1803)

#### Rush Coordinator

**Matt Loveless** (GA #1891)

#### Annual Fund Chair

**Josh Roberts** (GA #1810)

#### Chapter Advisor

**Al Etheridge** (GA #1723)

### Sigma Nu Housing Corporation

#### President

**Pat McKenna** (GA #1345)  
pjmckenna52@gmail.com

#### Vice President

**Adam Fuller** (GA #1701)

#### Legal Council

**Mason Cargill** (GA #1281)

#### Board

**Gary Jones** (GA #1290)  
**Frank Spears** (GA #1326)  
**Alex Brown** (GA #1759)  
**Jonathan Sangster** (GA #1467)  
**Grant Norwood** (GA #1673)  
**Al Etheridge** (GA #1723)



# The Rose & Star

Gamma Alpha • Sigma Nu Fraternity • Georgia Tech  
Atlanta, Ga. • September 2011 • [www.sigmanugt.com](http://www.sigmanugt.com)

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION REPORT

### Kudos!

#### Celebrating All Who Have Contributed to Our Brotherhood the Last 115 Years

By Alex Brown (GA #1759); President, Gamma Alpha Alumni Association

As everyone knows, a fraternity house is subject to a lot of wear and tear. One hundred collegians living, playing, studying and socializing in a single facility year round certainly takes a toll. Our new house entered into service in 2007, and now, four years later, the time had arrived for some heavy-duty cleaning and freshening. Over the past few weeks actives, alumni, and parents have all contributed to bringing our beloved property at 750 Fowler back to like-new condition.

Many thanks to **Houston Feaster** (GA #1769) for organizing a much needed interior repaint and drywall repair effort. Houston, who owns K&H Homes (a residential and commercial general contracting company), graciously provided his time, expertise, and paint crew to professionally repair and paint all of our common area walls and trim. When you see Houston at the football games this fall, please let him know how much we appreciate his work...thanks again, Houston!

Mrs. Tenley Stephens (aka Mrs. Choo Choo), mother of Active Brother **Boice "Choo Choo"**

**McGrew** (GA #2027), did a wonderful job of organizing the parents of active brothers to help with the annual Fall Work Week. In addition to providing extra help with cleaning the house, Tenley has been the driving force for a



## SIGMA NU CELEBRATES 115 YEARS AT GEORGIA TECH CONGRATULATIONS SIGMA NU!

number of other initiatives involving the parents. Each semester she organizes "Food For Finals," an effort in which the parents band together to provide home-cooked meals at the house for the Brothers during finals week. She has donated time and labor to maintaining the landscaping in the front yard, and even organized fundraising to buy new rocking chairs for the front porch! Needless to say, Tenley has been a HUGE asset for our chapter. From all of us at Gamma Alpha: Thank you Mrs. Choo Choo!

Thanks to the Gamma Alpha House Corp. for providing new and improved kitchen tables. The old tables served us well, but were in dire need of replacement. We now have a brand new set of heavy duty commercial tables that should provide reliable service for years to come.

Finally, we must express our gratitude to you, our wonderful alumni. Your contributions, love, and continued support of Gamma Alpha are what ultimately make all of this possible. We encourage you to visit the house this fall on game days to enjoy our 'refreshed' house and the camaraderie and brotherhood that have been a Gamma Alpha trademark for the last 115 years!



## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

### Every Little Bit Helps in Building Our Future Today

Several alums have recently asked how we are doing with our Capital Campaign. The answer is REMARKABLE...but we still need some help.

A quick update confirms that total costs for the entire project came in at \$5.2 million. We have received 445 pledges from Gamma Alpha alums totaling \$3.3 million, and we have received payments of \$2.9 million. There remains an outstanding balance of \$400k in pledge commitments yet to be paid.

We have secured a short-term floating rate loan thru June 2014 on the remaining \$2.3 million balance on our beautiful new fraternity house. Mortgages, particularly on

fraternity houses, continue to be problematic for banks, as you might imagine, with very little funds available for this type of financing.

The good news is that we at least have short term financing thru June 2014. The bad news is we need to pay this loan off as soon as we can. It's been eight long years, and we have come a long way. But we still have some wood to chop.

Many brothers offered at the beginning of the Capital Campaign to provide financial support if it was needed. Well, guess what? WE NEED! And, we have several Brothers who are experiencing financial issues and are unable to currently make their payments. This

will require other Brothers to step forward if possible.

Please do whatever you can to help us pay down this mortgage. Every little bit helps. Checks can be made payable to: "SNGT HOUSING CORP" and mailed to:

Campaign for Gamma Alpha of Sigma Nu  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Capital Campaign Center  
P.O. Box 7007  
Albert Lea, MN 56007-8007

## ANNUAL FUND UPDATE

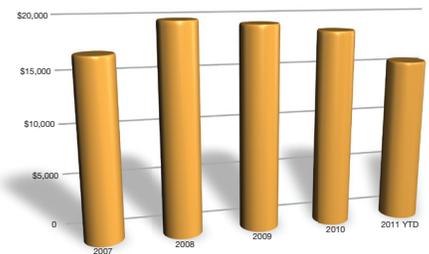
### The Annual Fund Needs You Too!

As we enter the last quarter of 2011, we need your support of the annual fund. Generous gifts from alumni to the annual fund support *The Rose and Star* and the alumni website. Additionally, it makes possible all of the invitations and announcements for reunions, annual gatherings and other events that bring alumni back to the place they can always call home. The annual fund occurs every year and without gifts to this fund, keeping in touch

with brothers would be much more difficult.

You can donate to the annual fund online, or make a contribution by calling our toll-free hotline at 800-975-6699, or by mailing a check payable to "Gamma Alpha Alumni Association" to:

Sigma Nu Fraternity at Georgia Tech  
Alumni Relations Processing Center  
P.O. Box 7007  
Albert Lea, MN 56007-8007



## ALUMNI UPDATES

### This Just In...News Reports from the Lives of Sigma Nu Brothers...

**McKinney "Mac" Taylor** (GA #737; jan-mact@comcast.net) and his wife Jan live in Glen Allen, Va., where Mac has retired from his highly successful engineering practice. Mac is part of the Greatest Generation of Sigma Nus from Ga. Tech, and was one of the leaders that built the first house at 750 Fowler St. Can't believe that was over 60 years ago. Others of that era included **Roger Brown** (GA #710; rbrown9015@aol.com), **Erd Johnson** (GA #704; erdjohnson@msn.com), **James Baldwin** (GA #707; jabalrock@aol.com) and **Wiley Williams** (GA #739; williams2006@knology.net). Gather ye rose buds...

There is a special group that is always there to support the annual fund for the Alumni

Assn. Thanks to **John Ackerman** (GA #749; jleoa@juno.com), **Lamar Latimer** (GA #783; jllatimer@bellsouth.net), **Bill Scott** (GA #822; bill@kkspring.com), **Donald Duke** (GA #816; dduke1929@sbcglobal.com) and **John Webster** (GA #824; jwebster8030@msn.com). It is Brothers like these that make Sigma Nu so special!

The next time the discussion turns to AstroPhysics and how you should handle solar convexity, please contact **Dr. Gene Avrett** (GA #894; avrett@cfa.harvard.edu). Brother Avrett is one of the BIG BRAINS responsible for the amazing work being done at Harvard - Smithsonian Center for AstroPhysics in Cambridge, Ma. And I can't even balance my checkbook...who knew?

If you're ever in Anaheim, Calif. and you

want to see Disneyland, check in with **Cecil Sutherland** (GA #891; foroz@aol.com). Thank you Cecil for supporting Sigma Nu every year. I swear there is no one that looks as good in a tux as does **Jim Edenfield** (GA #905; jedenfield@logility.com). Jim should consider a career as a fashion model... rumor has it he will be on the cover of GQ next month. **Max Cochran** (GA #914; maxcochran@bellsouth.net) checks in from Greenville, SC and hopes to see as many brothers as he can for Homecoming game. He shares that it's challenging to be a Tech man in Tiger Country.

**Fred Jordan** (GA #927; fredojordan@att.net) is another proud Gamma Alpha from the same pledge class as **Charlie Brady** (GA #909; charlie.brady@invesco.com) and **Guy York** (GA #928; ggyork@comcast.net). It seems like

only yesterday you guys were walking up the steps on Pledge Sunday. Tempus fugits...

Received a nice note from **Pearce Connerat** (GA #1046; pccjtc@att.net) thanking the Gamma Alpha Alumni Association for reconnecting the alums back to Sigma Nu at Georgia Tech. Pearce and Joyce live in Savannah, Ga. and hope to make it to Atlanta this fall for a football game. **Carlton "Rob" Roberson** (GA #1080; rob.roberson@verizon.net) is retired in Tampa after a wonderful military career in Aerospace Engineering and sends his best to all of the Gamma Alphas...

**Dave Bassett** (GA #1203; david.bassett@mssb.com) is Senior VP with Morgan Stanley Smith Barney in their Wealth Management division in Bradenton, Fla. and fondly recalls the wonderful days at Sigma Nu in the mid '60s when he overwhelmed all the young ladies as one of a class of Knightly Troubadors that flourished at 750 Fowler.

Best wishes to former Commander, **Steve Baldwin** (GA #1274; steve@srbaldwin.com), on his new position as Chief Operating Officer with an Atlanta-based law firm that specializes in assisting clients on matters related to Labor & Employment. Steve is also currently working with Brothers **Gary Jones** and **Jim Rountree** in planning the 40th reunion of the Georgia Tech class of 1971. OUCHIE!

Always good to hear from **Tom Sanville** (GA #1311; tomtmite@yahoo.com) where he lives with his wife Susan and family in Worthington, Ohio. Tom is Director of Library Services for Lyasis and has three children: Todd, Brad and Scott. There is no truth to the rumor that Ohio State contacted Commander Sanville to coach the Buckeyes after the dismissal of Coach Tressel, although Tom admits he looks marvelous in a red sweater vest.

**Jim "UNDERDOG" Underwood** (GA #1315; junderwood@windhambrannon.com) has successfully merged the company he founded Tarpley & Underwood into the financial planning firm of Windham & Brannon where he is one of the senior Principals. He and wife Kay live in Lilburn.

It's amazing what mid-life birthdays and anniversaries will do to a guy. **Jonathan Sangster** (GA #1467; jonathan.sangster@cbre.com) and Caroline just celebrated their 29th wedding

anniversary and 35th high school graduation milestones. Apparently, these milestones impacted his appearance and he's taken on a Jeff Bridges look. Wait till you see him around 750 Fowler this fall at football games.

**Rick Wycklendt** (GA #1477; rjwyck@gmail.com) checks in from New Berlin, Wisc. where he and his wife Darlene and their three children - Ricky, Charlie, and Amber - live. Rick swears there is no global warming... just come to Wisconsin in February and check it out.

Great to hear from **Carl F. Herring** (GA #1552; carlherring@me.com) who lives in Marana, Az. with his wife and three children Thomas, Elizabeth and Tanner, and he is Manager of Product Assurance with Raytheon.

**Terry Brown** (GA #1631; tbrown@ftek.com) checks in from Peachtree City and is looking forward to football season. Terry has two children, Nick and Rachel, and is Regional Sales Manager for Fuel Tech, Inc. in Fayetteville, Ga.

**Jimmy Trimble** (GA #1671; jimmy.trimble@lionbank.com) recently finished a four-year term as a GT Trustee and now has lots of free time. NOT! His time is now being consumed serving as President of Atlanta Medical Heritage and Chairman of Evergreen Retreat Center. In the fall, Jimmy and his wife Laura will celebrate 16 years of marriage by taking a well-deserved trip to Sonoma.

This summer **Grant Norwood** (GA #1673; grantcnorwood@gmail.com) opened the southeastern office for The Hays Group, focusing on clinical health strategies and risk management solutions for commercial concerns. In addition to raising his two kids, he is managing a company he founded, A.R.E.N.A. Health, which teaches children how to focus on healthy habits in the areas of Attitude, Rest, Exercise, Nutrition and Avoidance. He is also writing a book to explain the concepts behind these five key areas of health. Grant is active with the Gamma Alpha alumni association and serves as a conduit to actives seeking career advice and resume review. Thanks for all you do Brother Norwood!

Congratulations to Stacy and **Alex Brown** (GA #1759; alex@htrjobs.com)! Stacy is pregnant and due in November. Kelsey, age 3, can't wait for her new sibling and Brother Brown is

looking forward to an exhausting Bowl Season.

**Scott Hall** (GA #1754; scott@htrjobs.com) and his wife Kristen just returned from a trip to Puerto Rico in celebration of their 10th wedding anniversary. Their daughter, Courtney (who will be three in December), is entering her second year of school at Our Lady of the Assumption.

On July 19th, Lauryn and **Eric Gorli** (GA #1761; egorli@coca-cola.com) welcomed their second child Catherine Grace (Cate) into the Georgia Tech fan base.

**Jamie Matlock** (GA #1781; jamiematlock4@gmail.com) lives in Atlanta with his wife Dana and their two children Austin and Bryce, and works a Project Manager for Project Builders Incorporated.

Leah and **Brad Thornton** (GA #1811; btthornton@hotmail.com) celebrated their two-year wedding anniversary on July 18th and are happy to announce that Leah is pregnant and will be having a little girl in November. Their son Kort, age 9, looks forward to meeting his little sister. Brad stays in touch his is pledge brothers...he recently played golf with brother **Clint Mayhue** (GA #1807; clint.mayhue@avon-isi.com), who capped his round off with a chip in for birdie on the 18th green. It's a tough life!

Wanted to thank **Jacob Lang** (GA #1826; jacobelang@gmail.com) for all the work he did for the Housing Corp pro bono...as in "FOR FREE," on survey after survey on our new house. Jacob is Development Manager for Verdura Resources and is looking forward to the football season and fun times at the new house.

Congratulations to **Ben Macdonald** (GA #1858; ben.macdonald@amec.com) who joined AMEC in July as a Controls/Process engineer. He and Kimi have a one-year-old boy Charlie and are very excited about the 2011 GT football season.

**Matt Loveless** (GA #1891; matthewloveless@gmail.com) and his wife Kristi are expecting a new addition to their family! Kristi is pregnant with their first child, due to arrive in January. Matt has his fingers crossed for a little football player, and Kristi has her heart set on a ballerina. Let's just hope the latter doesn't get Matt's figure!

## Gamma Alpha Hits a Grand Slam with Rush and Academics

By MC Mercer IV (GA #1995), Eminent Commander

We continue to make great progress, which I hope makes you proud to be a Gamma Alpha. This would not be possible without the continued support from our fantastic Alumni Association, contributions to the Capital Campaign, and the financial support of EVERY alum who contributes to the annual fund. Let me reiterate how thankful our actives are to have such reliable and active alumni backing. Without your support, we would undoubtedly be in a very different situation...THANK YOU!

An update on rush week 2011. With the remarkable leadership of our rush chairs **Zack Berry** (GA #2014) and **Joe Gammie** (GA #2032), we pledged a stellar new class of 31 of GA Tech's finest. Our entire chapter stepped up to the plate and hit a GRAND SLAM. Congrats to all!

In true Sigma Nu fashion, we followed up

our academic achievements from last fall with an even better GPA this spring. We achieved a 3.09 average, eighth among all fraternities. And we are determined to move into the top 5 this fall. Our Brothers continue to make an impact on GA Tech as we strive to be the best fraternity on campus. **Shane Sandridge** (GA #1994) is entering his second term as IFC President, and we have active members involved in Executive Board, FASET, Connect w/ Tech, and a host of others.

Gamma Alpha is heavily involved in a variety of charities including For Pete's Sake, Charles Harris Run for Leukemia, Wiskott-Aldrich Foundation and, this fall, the second annual "St. Jude's Turkey Trot" from Athens to Atlanta the day after Thanksgiving to benefit St. Jude's Children Hospital.

I know I speak for all the Brothers when I say how fortunate we are to have so much

support from **Alex Brown** (GA #1759) and the Alumni Association, and from Mrs. Tenley Stephens (mother of **Boice McGrew** GA #2027) and the Sigma Nu Parents' Club to our amazing alumni. Please come by the house this fall for a football game or come to the house for one of our Alumni Speaker Series. And please know that we are striving to remain the best fraternity on campus.



**Eminent Commander  
MC Mercer IV (GA  
#1995)**

## Gamma Alpha Brother Receives Harrison Scholarship



It is indeed an honor to announce that one of our own, **Zack Berry** (GA #2014), a senior majoring in Business Administration from Glenwood, Md., is one of this year's recipients of "The Charles W. Harrison Scholarship." This award is given by the East Lake Foundation every year to a select group of employees

of the East Lake Golf Club and the Charlie Yates Golf Course who are working toward their undergraduate degree and exemplify outstanding character, integrity and leadership skills. Congrats Zack...you make us proud!

# RUSH REPORT

## Gamma Alpha Leads Charge with 31 Amazing New Pledges

By Joe Gammie (GA #2032), Recruitment Chair

The Gamma Alpha Chapter responded to rush in 2011 with resounding success. Led by Commander **MC Mercer** and Rush Chairs **Zack Berry** and myself, the chapter enlisted 31 candidates by the end of rush week with a remarkable chapter effort... particularly in what is appears to be a slow rush year for IFC.

Gamma Alpha was able to establish

a pledge class of not only quantity, but more importantly, outstanding quality. Thanks to the help of the active chapter and the Alumni Association's contributions and effort, the house was in top-notch condition. Visitors commented that our house was "the cleanest and nicest on campus" countless times, and it undoubtedly had a positive effect on

our efforts. The great determination of our brotherhood over the past couple of weeks has proved fruitful in the fact that Sigma Nu recorded one of the largest, and without a doubt most outstanding, pledge classes on campus. A heartfelt thank you and congratulations goes out to everyone who played a role.

## Speros Kokenes Named Sigma Nu's National "Talent of the Year"

By Al Etheridge (GA #1723)

We're proud to congratulate **Speros Kokenes** (GA #1988) for earning the Sigma Nu National "Talent of the Year Award" for 2011. As the Chapter Advisor for Gamma Alpha of Sigma Nu, I have the pleasure and privilege of interacting with many fraternity members and candidates on a regular basis. In that time I have had frequent opportunity to work with and come to know Speros. Among the many, Speros stands out not only for his character, integrity and ethic but shines brightly in his musical talent.

Within Sigma Nu, Speros has demonstrated ability, intelligence, energy and enthusiasm. He made his entry into Sigma Nu by claiming top candidate honors within a strong pledge class and continued playing a leading role as Gamma Alpha's Lieutenant Commander. In that time he guided the Chapter to substantial improvement of its Pursuit of Excellence scores and provided a well-respected, reasoned and valued voice of leadership within the chapter.

Scholastically, Speros has excelled in his

Industrial Engineering (IE) curriculum, garnering induction into the Alpha Pi Mu honor society for Industrial engineering. Beyond scholastics, Speros was employed as a co-operative student with Diversitech, enabling him to gain valuable experience and knowledge for his budding career, currently taking shape in the form of a start-up company formed by he and two other Gamma Alphas **Matt Cauble** and **Robert Reinhardt**.

As an erstwhile musician, I have been known to fall in with the occasional spontaneous jam session arising at the Sigma Nu house. It was in this setting that I first had the pleasure of playing with Speros – from the outset his talent was obvious. Since that time, years passed and Speros worked very hard to accrue the achievements described above. More impressive, he maintained his passion for music, somehow finding the physical and emotional energy to continue to effectively grow and evolve his musical skill and vision while maintaining a very high level of perfor-

mance in the other important aspects of his life. Speros evolved from a talented underclassman to find his full-fledged musical voice. In recent years he's written, recorded and published several albums of material that demonstrate not only his instrumental skill but maturity in compositional depth, substance and expression. His hard work is starting to gain some public recognition in blog reviews of on his 'Kinisi' project, and he's garnered a nomination and is currently under consideration for 'Best Soundtrack' for a score he wrote for a short film produced by fellow Sigma Nu brothers as part of a national contest.

Speros Kokenes is a true rarity at Georgia Tech or anywhere else — a fine engineer, a leader of men, an evocative composer and musician.

Congratulations to Speros for being named Sigma Nu's "Talent of the Year." He surely earned it and I can't wait to listen to what he chooses to create next.

## Mumford and Sons Gives Sigma Nu Band Its Lucky Break

Some say that success is a matter of preparedness and good timing - and you won't get an argument from the members of Seven Handle Circus, a bluegrass band formed at Georgia Tech, led and largely composed of Gamma Alpha of Sigma Nu alumni. Purveyors of music described as "Bad Ass Bluegrass" and hailed as "a brilliant little string band" by Marcus Mumford of Mumford and Sons. Some of you may recall the their raucous good-time set from the 2010 Alumni Weekend. As it happens, one of the most popular music acts around happened to hear the band by accident and brought them into the spotlight.

As guitarist **Shawn Spencer** (GA #1967) tells it, the band was playing a Bluegrass Breakfast last month at a local eatery and they weren't necessary excited about it. "It didn't even pay that well. But we didn't have anything else to do on a Sunday morning. So we agreed to do it," he said.

Then preparedness indeed met timing when in for breakfast walked the band "Mumford and Sons." As in the chart-topping, Grammy Award nominated Mumford and Sons, who recently shared the stage and played

with Bob Dylan at the Grammys. The guys knew the group was playing nearby at the Fox Theater and when they heard the English band members actually speak, they had no doubt who was in their brunch-time audience.

"They were filming us on their phones and we just got to talking to them afterwards. They said 'We really enjoyed your music. Do you want to come play at the Fox tonight?'" As Spencer says, "How could you say no to that?"

That evening, Seven Handle Circus set up in the Fox lobby, entertaining the crowds in between acts and during breaks. Happy with their good fortune and satisfied with the unexpected gig at the Fox, the boys settled in to enjoy the remainder of the Mumford and Sons show only to be dealt one more kind surprise. As Shawn says, "Mumford and Sons talked about us on stage, so all the people at the concert heard about us." In addition to musical talent, modesty is also a strength. In between songs, Mumford and Sons gathered the crowd's attention, and for a few minutes related from the stage the full story of brunch and the invitation to play and call on the band to stand up and receive well-deserved



appreciation from the Fox crowd.

After the show, you'd have been severely pressed to find more excitement or bigger smiles as a result of preparedness and good timing. Congratulations to Shawn, Colin, Steve, Richard, Jeff, and Matt and Jeff. Seven Handle Circus plays regularly around Atlanta and north Georgia.

### Seven Handle Circus:

**Shawn Spencer** (GA #1967) – Guitar  
**Colin Vinson** (GA #1958) – Banjo  
**Steve Bledsoe** (GA #1933) –Mandolin  
**Jeff Harrison** (GA #1939) – Percussion  
 Richard Burroughs – Fiddle  
 Matt Norris – Bass

## CAMPAIGN NEWS

### Brother George P. Burdell III (GA #2007) Pledges \$2,007 to Capital Campaign

If you recall, the pledge class that was initiated in 2008 selected and initiated as their honor pledge none other than George P. Burdell III and bestowed upon him Gamma Alpha #2007. After he was initiated, George P. also pledged \$2,007, his chapter number, to the Capital Campaign.

Every quarter since then, we have received a payment of \$207 in cash that



is mysteriously and secretly deposited into the SNGT House Corp account at our bank in midtown Atlanta. George P. Burdell III has whittled his initial \$2,007 campaign pledge down to \$765.

To the Brothers who are responsible, whoever you are, GAMMA ALPHA THANKS YOU! Leave it to a bunch of Sigma Nus to come up with something clever like this. Now if we could only find out what happened to the SAE lion.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Gamma Alpha Chapter in 1973. *From the BluePrint.*

Share the best pictures from your era in the online albums at [www.sigmanugt.com](http://www.sigmanugt.com).



*In this issue of The Rose & Star...*  
 - Gamma Alpha Celebrates 115th Anniversary  
 - Brother Named Sigma Nu's National "Talent of the Year"  
 - Lots of News from Your Alumni Brothers

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