

## ALUMNI OFFICERS

### Alumni Association Officers

President

**Alex Brown GA #1759**

Vice President

**Grant Norwood GA #1673**

Treasurer

**Adam Fuller GA #1701**

Annual Fund

**Josh Roberts GA #1810**

Chapter Advisor

**Al Etheridge GA #1723**

Homecoming Coordinator

**Adam Pratt GA #1906**

Rush Advisor

**Jonathan Sangster GA #1946**

### Housing Corporation

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**Grant Norwood GA #1673**

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**Adam Fuller GA #1701**

Legal Counsel

**Mason Cargill GA #1281**

Accountant

**Chris Pappadakis GA #1726**

### Board Members

P J Bain GA #1682

Alex Brown GA #1759

Matt Loveless GA #1891

Josh Roberts GA #1810

Frank Spears GA #1326



# The Rose & Star

Gamma Alpha • Sigma Nu Fraternity • Georgia Tech  
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## HOUSE CORPORATION UPDATE

### SNGT House Corporation is Considering Options on How to Pay Down the Mortgage

**Recent Contributions Have Reduced the Mortgage to Less Than \$2 Million**

*By Adam Fuller, Treasurer, SNGT House Corporation*

With the start of the new school year, I thought I would give a short recap of the House Corporation and how it works with the chapter to provide a house for the actives and alumni to enjoy.

The house is owned by the SNGT House Corporation, which is run by a board of chapter alumni who do not receive compensation for services. The House Corporation was responsible for building the house and financing its construction.

The chapter signs a lease every year to live in the house and pays rent to the House Corporation. The rent payments cover interest on the mortgage, property taxes, insurance, and some capital improvements. The chapter is responsible for utilities and regular maintenance of the house. Because the house was new and interest rates have remained low, the House Corporation has not raised the rent for five years until this year when rent went up by 3%. The increased rent is primarily targeted to cover higher costs for capital improvements that are required as the house ages.

***"Thanks to those who have contributed so generously to the capital campaign. Your contributions have reduced the outstanding balance on the mortgage to under \$2 million on a property that cost \$4.8 million to construct."***

Thanks to those who have contributed so generously to the capital campaign. Your contributions have reduced the outstanding balance on the mortgage to under \$2 million on a property that cost \$4.8 million to construct.



Collectively, we have come a long way, but we still need your help to reduce the mortgage to \$1.5 million for the long term strength of the chapter and House Corporation. We have been fortunate to have had a period of low interest rates, which meant more of each dollar contributed has gone to paying down debt instead of paying interest.

Although we call the building the chapter house, it does not qualify for a typical home mortgage with a long term fixed interest rate like a normal house. The house is considered commercial property, and the House Corporation must utilize a commercial bank loan of 3 to 5 years to finance the property. The current mortgage has a term through next June, but the House Corporation is now in the process of working with our bank to refinance the loan while rates are still low. We have numerous options to consider for term and rate. The board of the House Corporation will consider the various options and make a decision soon.



## ALUMNI REFLECTIONS

### Bob Templeton GA# 765, Fondly Remembers the Old House in 1951

#### Former Commander Recalls How Sigma Nu Overcame Tough Financial Times

Reading your e-mails about the needs for additional funds brings back wonderful memories of the former house and a similar financial situation we faced. After World War II, the State of Georgia decided to build a new North Expressway that had a centerline that ran through the living room of our Sigma Nu house on 5th Street. Dean Phil Narramore bought and moved six houses affected by the construction.

Sigma Nu, along with Kappa Sigma, TKE, Phi Kappa Sigma and two others, moved into rental houses, which were just north of 3rd Street and fronting the muddy mess that became the expressway.

In 1950, Dean George Griffin swung his weight to piece together three small tracts of

land for us to build on along Fowler St. **Bill Finch**, a Gamma Alpha alum and a leading Atlanta architect, designed a two-story house that would be the most modern on campus. Alumni pledges and funds from the 5th St. house sale would provide the \$88,000 needed for construction. Unfortunately, the Korean War and the recession hit and our costs skyrocketed to over \$150,000 with many of our alumni donors unable to fulfill their pledges.

Due to a lack of funds, our two-story house became a one-story house. **Roger Brown GA #710** was Commander and **Jim Baldwin GA #707** was Lt. Commander in the spring and summer of 1951 while the house was being finished. They had to equip the kitchen and buy beds and furniture. Our drapes came from **Lamar Latimer GA**

**#783**, who convinced his family to donate them.

When I took over as the first Commander elected in the new house and **Mac Taylor GA #737** was elected as Lt. Commander, Roger handed me the gavel and the financial books with \$3.18 in our bank account. Somehow, we managed but had to operate on a shoe string. It was great fun with a great Band of Brothers.

So pleased to see Sigma Nu still going strong.

Fraternally,  
**Bob Templeton**  
Gamma Alpha #765  
bob.tem@aol.com

## KEEPING IN TOUCH

### We're Searching for Nearly 700 Brothers

We need your help! There are currently close to 700 Sigma Nu brothers on our lost email list, including **James Garrard '87**, **David Wong '82**, **Gary Gray '94**, and **Chaz Thomas '07**. This means they are missing out on valuable communications that keep us in touch.

Please help us to reach more alumni brothers more frequently and cost effectively by reviewing our lost email list at [www.sigmanugt.com](http://www.sigmanugt.com). If you recognize any of the names on the list, simply send an email to our alumni relations firm with their updated contact information. Our email database is used solely for chapter communications.

*"Understand that friends come and go, but with a precious few you should hold on. Work hard to bridge the gaps in geography and lifestyle, because the older you get, the more you need the people who knew you when you were young."*

—*Mary Schmich, columnist for the Chicago Tribune*

## PLEDGE UPDATE

In another strong recruiting year, Gamma Alpha of Sigma Nu has enlisted another banner pledge class with 21 terrific young men. The entire chapter participated in this year's Rush and, once again, have strengthened the chapter with this fine group of young men.

*We welcome the following new members:*

Ben Horst Atlanta, GA	Michael Balourdas San Diego, CA	Mark Rickabaugh Morehead City, NC	Adam Gonterman Buford, GA
Nicholas Maniscalco Cape May, NJ	Richard Lu Lawrence, KS	Scott Prombo Waterloo, IL	Jake Damiano Woodstock, GA
Kyle Murray Leesburg, VA	Duc Dao Ho Chi Minh City, VN	Cameron Lockhart Snellville, GA	Alex McLeod Davidson, NC
Reed McCarter Williamsburg, VA	Carter Yount Allentown, PA	Connor Cudney Flowery Branch, GA	
Tucker LoCicero Gainseville, GA	Craig Cornick Buford, GA	Ben Wilson Buford, GA	

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION UPDATE

### Two New Initiatives Provide Support for Our Actives These Projects Offer Unique Opportunities for Alums to Give Back

By Alex Brown GA #1759, President, Alumni Association

Fall is in the air, classes are underway, and Yellow Jacket football is in full swing! This is the busiest time of year for the Gamma Alpha Alumni Association and we are excited about what is happening with the chapter and our alumni. There are two significant initiatives which have been under development and are now being tested among a group of select alumni. The first initiative is a Mentor Program, which involves pairing Gamma Alpha actives with Gamma Alpha alumni for guidance and counsel. There are currently 13 brothers from the active chapter who have been matched to 13 alumni volunteers. The goal is to network and create friendships that transfer useful knowledge to younger brothers, which ultimately will strengthen our wonderful brotherhood. This initial "test run" will be for one full school year and, assuming all goes well, we will kick off a new and expanded class of mentors and mentees next fall.

The second initiative underway is the creation of a Gamma Alpha alumni networking and career web site. This will be a website exclusively for Gamma Alphas to post jobs, post resumes, network, and seek career advice. This site is currently in its beta stage and we are seeking volunteers to assist with

testing. If you are interested in helping, please contact Scott Hall at [scott@htrjobs.com](mailto:scott@htrjobs.com).

***"Of course, no initiative can be successful without a healthy brotherhood, and a healthy brotherhood can't happen without support of our alumni."***

Of course, no initiative can be successful without a healthy brotherhood, and a healthy brotherhood can't happen without support of our alumni. The Gamma Alpha alumni association continues to provide the support and guidance that keeps our brotherhood strong. We provide key guidance on financial management, recruitment, risk mitigation, and any other area where help is needed. One of the most unique things we do is hold the Alumni Association meetings on-site at the house 3-4 times per semester. They are usually the first Wednesday of the month, and often coincide with our Distinguished Speaker Series (successful alumni to speak to the chapter). We would love to have you join us! Feel free to contact me at [alex@htrjobs.com](mailto:alex@htrjobs.com) for more info. Go Jackets!

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

If you haven't made a pledge, or if you can increase your pledge, please consider doing so now. We need 100 brothers to donate \$5,000 each to pay down the mortgage.

CHECKS CAN BE MADE PAYABLE TO to "SNGT House Corporation" and mailed to:

**SNGT HOUSE CORPORATION**  
Affinity Connection  
P.O. Box 296  
State College, Pa 16904-0296

## UPCOMING GAMES

10/19: Syracuse

11/2: Pittsburgh  
(Homecoming)

11/23: Alabama A&M

11/30: Georgia

***Don't miss the Homecoming Reception and Band Party at the House on November 1st!***

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

### Can You Believe It's Been 20 Years?

From *Blueprint*: "Sigma Nu brothers and friends gather at a mountain top in Steamboat Springs, CO during their winter quarter ski trip in 1993. The event gave brothers a chance to get to know each other and have fun away from school."

Do you have great pictures like this from your era? Share them online, and view others' submissions, at [www.sigmanugt.com](http://www.sigmanugt.com).



## ALUMNI UPDATES

### *This just in...news reports from the Lives of Our Sigma Nu Brothers...*

Brother **Robert Bailey 1951, GA #801** (boalb@bellsouth.net) is keeping himself busy, despite being retired for over 23 years. Two days a week Robert is the Workroom Coordinator for the Friends of the Library in Macon, Ga. The library recently had a sale with over 100,000 books that had been processed through the workroom, with all proceeds benefiting the Bibb County library system.

After living in six different cities (including Pensacola, Fla., Charleston, SC, Portsmouth, Va., Boston, Mass., Greensboro, NC and High Point, NC) **John "Max" Cochran 1955, GA #914** (maxcochran@bellsouth.net) finally settled in his hometown of Greenville, SC in 2010. He retired from Louis P. Batson Company in April 2009 but continues to work part time as an investment banker and sailing instructor. Max recently returned from a sailing jaunt to the Bahamas with one of his students and a friend. His family has continued to grow, and Max now has three children and eight grandchildren from ages 8 to 24. Max and his wife Diane toured 12 national parks and the Grand Canyon over 16 days, and recently celebrated their 54<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Congratulations Brother Max!

**Ralph "Al" Blythe 1957, GA #979** (alblythe1@charter.net) finally hung up his working boots and is enjoying spending time with his family in Alex City, Ala. Brother Al has 2 children and 5 grandchildren and visited Atlanta in April for a family reunion. Did you stop by the new house, Al?

Heartbreak continues all over the southeast as **Steve Baldwin 1969, GA #1274** (steve@srbaldwin.com) tied the knot to the beautiful Lisa Devlin in a ceremony on Saturday, September 21st with a beautiful reception at the Capital City Club in Brookhaven. Congrats to the newlyweds. A cautionary reminder... no stories about any of our nicknames... what happens at 750 Fowler STAYS at 750 Fowler. Steve can be reached at steve@srbaldwin.com.

Dr. **James "Dave" Philbrick 1970, GA #1338** (dpdentist@insightbb.com) is now

splitting his time between his dental practice in Florence, Ky. and the Roman Catholic Church as an ordained Deacon from Mt. St. Mary's Seminary of the West. Dave and his wife Anne will be celebrating their 33<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary this year...maybe he'll be the officiant at his own vow renewal!

Going to the GT-Auburn game for the weekend in two motor homes with 30 Sigma Nus is **Duke Claussen's 1975, GA #1436** (duke.claussen@caraustar.com) fondest Gamma Alpha memory. Nowadays, Duke lives in Kennesaw while working in sales at Caraustar. His daughters recently graduated from Samford and Auburn, respectively.

DNA continues at Gamma Alpha as we celebrate another dynasty of McLeods at 750 Fowler. **Steve McLeod GA #1460** (s19mcleod@mcleodcorp.com) who was Commander back in the late 1970s, is beaming with pride as his son has pledged Sigma Nu. Steve has been a strong supporter of the Capital Campaign and the Annual Fund and makes us all proud that this rich vein of McLeods continues at Gamma Alpha.

Talk about an important job... **Tim P Cleary 1977, GA #1478** (tpcleary@aol.com) is responsible for the safe operation of Watts Bar Nuclear Plant in Signal Mountain, Tenn. Despite his responsibilities as the Site VP for the TVA, he was able to travel to NYC for the 2012 marathon. All four of his children have left the nest and are living on their own, so he and his wife Grace are enjoying time together. His fondest memories of Gamma Alpha are "good old boy" nights and the friendships that continue today.

**Jimmy Trimble 1987, GA #1670** (jimmy.trimble@lionbank.com) was just asked to join the board of the Scheller College of Business. Don't forget to add that to your resume, Brother Trimble!

**Marcus "Clint" Bailey GA #1740** (clint@htrjobs.com) has joined the ranks of the community leaders to participate in the highly prestigious Leadership Atlanta. Clint is one

of the co-founders of HUNTER Technical Resources, LLC., and serves as Vice President of Marketing along with President & CEO **Scott Hall GA #1754** (scott@htrjobs.com) and CFO **Alex Brown GA #1759** (alex@htrjobs.com). Anyone looking for IT talent...call HUNTER.

If you need some help building an IED, **Derek "DP" Patterson 1995, GA #1801** (derekjpatterson@hotmail.com) is your guy. He is currently the Operations Manager for Raytheon Missile Systems in Tucson, Ariz. His job description includes: "kicking a\*\*", taking names...and occasionally promoting synergy." His job has taken him to Boston frequently for work, where he's enjoyed seeing a real baseball team play. His favorite memories of Gamma Alpha: Trick or Drink, Century Club, KV, Island Party, road trips to Athens, naked lunch, Beach Weekend and breaking it down in glass elevators. A little known fact about Derek: his mom was a beauty queen.

**Brian Smith 1994, GA #1789** (brian.christopher.smith@gmail.com) is keeping himself very busy at home with his growing family. He and wife Lydia (married eight years) now have three kids (Savannah, 5, Colton, 3, and Lesline, 1). His recent overseas trip to the Democratic Republic of Congo was to adopt little Lesline and bring her back home to Fort Worth, Texas. Brian's "other job" is with Lockheed Martin as an Embedded Software Engineer working on the F-35 Verification Simulator. His fondest Sigma Nu memories include Beach Weekend 1995 and the 1999 Gator Bowl. We kind of remember those too, Brian.

It's a family affair for **Justin Grinder 1997, GA #1819** (jgrinder@grindertaber.com) Justin, his father, uncle, cousin and brother **Brett Grinder 1991, GA #1743** (bgrinder@grindertaber.com) run Grinder, Taber & Grinder Inc. general contactors, construction managers and design builders in the Memphis, Tenn. area. Justin's responsibilities include overseeing project managers and estimators, new office hires and staffing as well as preparing marketing materials.

*Gamma Alpha Brothers! We want to hear from you! Submit your own alumni update to [content@affinityconnection.com](mailto:content@affinityconnection.com) and we will share it with the brotherhood. Please mention Sigma Nu at Georgia Tech in your email.*

## ALUMNI UPDATES

Congratulations are in order for Justin and his wife Cara as they welcomed their second child (first is Cray), a baby girl.

Great to hear from **Eric Cassidy 1998, GA #1848** (ecassidy@trane.com) who is working as a Senior Sales Engineer of HVAC equipment and Controls at Trane. Eric is currently living in Wilmington, NC with Mama Greenstone and still has fond memories of being a Sigma Nu at Georgia Tech, particularly hanging out by the pool and ruling as KV KING. He says he was undefeated... any challengers?

**Adam Weart 1999, GA #1848** (aweart@hotmail.com) best remembers his days at Sigma Nu as all-night dance sessions with Evelyn in the kitchen and being on the receiving end of the K in KV. Adam is currently "working hard for the money" as a voice actor and is best known for making the "bong" sound at the end of the Gary Martin Hays commercials. He's very proud of that. He's also proud of his growing family that just welcomed their second daughter on February 10, 2013 – Lila Rose.

Another lucky lady has joined the Sigma Nu family as **Jonathan Black 2001, GA #1876** was married on April 27th to Meghan McPheeters. Jonathan graduated med school in May and started his residency in general surgery at UNC Chapel Hill in June. Good luck Jonathan!

**Kevin Middlebrooks 2001, GA #1878** (kmiddlebrooks@gmail.com) has been living in Sharpsburg, Ga. for the last seven years working for Jones Glass, a commercial storefront, curtainwall and glass subcontractor. Kevin runs the Atlanta office for Jones. He is a proud papa with one daughter (Katelyn, 2) and a second daughter born in June 2013.

Congratulations to **David Hannon 2001, GA #1881** (dhannon1881@gmail.com) for being a double Tech grad; he received his Master's in Building Construction in May. He and wife Arianna are the lucky parents of Horatio "Mouth Jr." Hannon.

Want to have a conversation go over your head? Look up **Geoffrey Feld 2002, GA #1900** (gkfeld@gmail.com). He's a Postdoctoral Researcher in modern methods of structural biology at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. After receiving his PhD in Chemistry in 2012 he moved to Livermore, Calif. for his current position. He recently got to present at a conference in Murnau, Germany but fondly recalls gamedays and summer nights and weekends with his fraternity brothers.

Great to hear that **Adam Pratt GA #1906** (adampratt@gmail.com) has moved back to Atlanta with his beautiful bride. Adam is currently a Major Stud Bolt at McCarthy Construction Company where he is currently involved in building a new hospital over at Emory. Welcome back Commander!

**John DiRico 2004, GA #1929** (john.dirico@gmail.com) recently bought a condo down the street from campus and is currently working for AirWatch as the first patent counsel. He was tasked with software and computer system patent prosecution and litigation support after graduating from UF Law School in 2011. John remembers pledgeship being a very challenging experience, but the relationships he forged with his pledge brothers was worth it.

Gamma Alpha has produced a "kick-a\*\* bluegrass" band by the name of Seven Handle Circus with four of its six members, **Shawn Spencer 2006, GA #1967** (shawns pencer@gatech.edu), **Jeff Harrison 2004, GA #1938** (c.jeff.harrison@gmail.com), **Colin Vinson 2005, GA #1958** (cvinson86@gmail.com) and **Steve Bledsoe 2004, GA #1933** claiming Sigma Nu brotherhood. Right now the band's focus is to "travel around, makin' those bootys shake," like they used to do in the chapter room. Check them out and show Gamma Alpha some support: [www.sevenhandlecircus.com/band/](http://www.sevenhandlecircus.com/band/).

It is with heavy hearts that Gamma Alpha of Sigma Nu wishes to offer condolences to **Ken Smith 1957, GA #973** (choctaw62@comcast.net). He recently lost his wife to a battle with cancer. We also send our thoughts to the family of **Melvin Clay 1950, GA #1056** as Melvin passed away in 2011 due to pancreatic cancer.

## ANNUAL FUND 2013 UPDATE

### Every Brother...Every Year

#### Seven Percent of our Active Members Have Supported the Annual Fund This Year

It is our goal to have...Every Brother...give \$100/year...every year...at a minimum.

To date, only 83 of our 1249 active members have supported the annual fund. That's about 7% of our active member population. We are well short of our goal!

It takes all of our support to run the Gamma Alpha of Sigma Nu Alumni Association. All of the funds we raise through the Annual Fund go directly into our operating budget.

So, if you made a gift last year, please make your gift for 2013. If you haven't made

a gift in a few years (or maybe ever), please consider making a contribution this the year to start giving to the annual fund and support us!

(Please note, all annual fund contributions are not tax deductible.)

**Make Your Gift**  
There are three ways  
to donate:

**Make check payable to: GAMMA ALPHA ALUMNI ASSN & mail to our processing center:**

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

**Online at:**  
[www.sigmanugt.com](http://www.sigmanugt.com).

**By calling:**  
800-975-6699

## JUST FOR FUN

### George P. Burdell: An Enduring Student, Legend

Like all tireless legends, the conception of **George P. Burdell** at Georgia Tech remains a mystery. Alum William Edgar "Ed" Smith, BS 30, claimed creation of Burdell in 1927 to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution in 1977.

Smith was filling out his enrollment papers. As a prank, he decided to turn in duplicates under his former principal and Georgia alum George P. Butler. After writing George P., Smith lost nerve and finished the entry with Burdell.

Smith then enrolled Burdell in classes. He even took duplicate tests using Burdell's name, altering the handwriting just enough to ensure

he fooled the professors.

By 1930, George P. Burdell had taken enough tests to "earn" a bachelor's degree from the Institute - later receiving his Master's degree and becoming an official alumnus. At the same time, he has managed to maintain his student status to this day.

During World War II, George P. Burdell served in the armed forces on many fronts, his name appearing around the world. He was listed on the flight crew of a B-17 bomber, flying 12 missions over Europe. However, when a Tech graduate became the new operations officer he immediately recognized the

name and Burdell's flying days were over.

When Georgia Tech computerized its registration in 1969, Burdell signed up for every available course. And despite subsequent fail-safe procedures to prevent it, he did so again in 1975 and 1980.

The spirit of George P. Burdell thrives. He continues to post letters to the editor, baffle salesmen and get paged at football games. But he's displayed a generous nature, with his signature appearing on numerous rebate checks.

Reprint from: [www.gtalumni.org/Publications/magazine/spr98/div02.html](http://www.gtalumni.org/Publications/magazine/spr98/div02.html)

## WEB UPDATE

### Our New Web Site is Full of Photos and Opportunities to Connect with Brothers

By now, you should have received an email including your new login information for [www.sigmanugt.com](http://www.sigmanugt.com). If you forget your username or password, just click on "forget username?" or "forget password?" near the login area on the home page and follow the prompts.

The revamped design gives us a sleeker, cleaner look as we work to recruit the brightest and best new brothers for the future of Sigma Nu. With many fraternity organizations turning to websites with high design as a recruiting tool, our virtual "chapter house" has become a key component in our representation to the public.

For alumni brothers, there are also a number of improvements. Some of these include:

- A streamlined directory that makes searching for brothers simple and quick
- User-friendly alumni profile, update, and photo sections where you can check out what's new with brothers and look back on your college years
- Top of the line security that ensures safe and protected online giving
- Event management software so that reunion events can be announced and registration tracked, allowing brothers to see who has

signed up to what and when

- Complete social networking integration with Facebook and LinkedIn, allowing you to have a one-stop browsing experience.



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*In this Issue of The Rose & Star...*

- Mortgage Reduced to Less than \$2 Million, Thanks to Alumni Donors
- Plenty of Mentoring and Networking Opportunities in the Works
- Overcoming a Financial Downfall in 1951

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