

## ALUMNI OFFICERS

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# The Rose & Star

Gamma Alpha • Sigma Nu Fraternity • Georgia Tech  
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## FEATURE STORY

### The Tale of a Thriving House Dog

*How One '80s Alum Reconnected with Rollo, a Decade Later*



*Rollo jumping for a treat held by Derek Nowatzki (GA #1538) at Sigma Nu in the early '80s.*



*Mark Smith and Greg Davidson, reunited after a decade, in Vail, Colorado.*

Some Sigma Nu stories pull at the heartstrings, and this one told by **Mark Smith (GA #1505)** certainly makes even the strongest of us a little sentimental.

He writes, "This story proves that brotherhood lasts a long time. It starts around Thanksgiving of 1980, when **Lou Matrisciano (GA #1500)** and **Greg Tye (GA #1513)** came back to the house with a cardboard box full of six puppies they had found abandoned on the side of the interstate. We took them in, took care of them, and eventually gave them all away — except for one who we kept as the house dog. We named him Rollo. He was a little black and white mutt, but a great dog. We never had to open a door to let him in or out... he jumped through a window instead.

The tradition was that a senior kept him in his room at night, and when you graduated, you 'gave' Rollo to someone else. My roommate **Chris Troutman (GA #1514)** and I had him in the fall of '82, and when we graduated we gave him to **Greg Davidson (GA #1570)**. That was the last I

had thought of Rollo... until February of 1994.

My wife Bonnie and I were in Vail, Colorado at a business meeting. One afternoon we decided to go snowmobiling, and arrived to meet our guide for the afternoon. He looked at me, I looked at him, and eventually we recognized each other. It was Greg Davidson! The next words out of his mouth were 'guess who's still alive?!?!'

That's right — Rollo! When Greg graduated there was nobody who wanted him, so Greg adopted Rollo and traveled with him around the country. Greg said he was moving slowly, but still himself, and even showed us a picture of the little guy.

Greg was a great guide, and even though I have no idea where he is now, I know that Rollo was loved and cared for.

This story is just to let all the recent alums and current brothers know that they should never take anything for granted, and never overlook even the little moments."

**"This story proves that brotherhood lasts a long time."**

**—Mark Smith**

## CHAPTER NEWS

### Sigma Nu Mentoring Program a Win-Win

#### Both Actives and Alumni Benefit from Networking and Career-Planning Relationship

**Thomas Mahoney (GA #2114)**, a senior studying Civil Engineering from Savannah, was looking to expand his network in both the professional community and the Sigma Nu community. Through his mentor relationship with **Frank Spears (GA #1326)**, consisting of regular emails and monthly lunches, he has been able to visualize a plan of action for after graduation to reach his long-term goals in his professional and personal life.

"I have realized the timeline of prior experience that some careers require, as well as the pros and cons of graduate school for the short-term career," said Thomas.

Frank, an Atlanta native who earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Civil Engineering from Georgia Tech, has worked in commercial construction since he graduated in December 1973. He is participating in Sigma Nu's mentoring program because he likes helping

students with options in their eventual careers.

"My goal is to share with them where I believe opportunities are and what the emerging trends in the construction and consulting engineering business are," said Frank. "I learn something as well from this mentoring relationship. It becomes a win-win for both of us."

Frank encourages his fellow Sigma Nu alumni brothers to volunteer as a mentor for a current active.

"If a brother has the time to devote to mentoring a Sigma Nu brother starting out, it is extremely rewarding, especially when you finally see them making successful career moves that you help set in motion," he said.

The program has had an obvious impact and benefit to the actives — and the alumni — who are participating.

"Outside of the obvious opportunity of receiving internships or co-ops, the program offers the opportunity of meeting successful alumni in your major that want to give back to the community," said Thomas. "They have much more to offer than just networking potential."

## ALUMNI MENTORS

Last school year, we created a mentor program for the Sigma Nu actives, loosely modeled on the GT mentor program. Thank you to the alumni who are currently serving as active mentors to our undergraduates...

Clint Bailey (GA #1740)

Alex Brown (GA #1759)

Jason Check (GA #1853)

Al Etheridge (GA #1723)

Jason Peters (GA #1835)

Brent Reid (GA #1507)

Nick Romano (GA #1753)

Josh Roberts (GA #1810)

Erik Weston (GA #1695)

Derek Patterson (GA #1801)

Jonathan Sangster (GA #1946)

Adam Fuller (GA #1701)

Brent Sholl (GA #1758)

Kirk Leverone (GA #1803)

Steve Baldwin (GA #1274)

Eric Gorli (GA #1761)

Scott Hall (GA #1754)

Kyle Tomlin (GA #1700)

PJ Bain (GA #1682)

Dave Barber (GA #1748)

Joe Gammie (GA #2032)

Stan Deak (GA #1792)

Frank Spears (GA #1326)

Grant Norwood (GA #1673)

Scott Reedy (GA #1705)

Would you like to make a difference in the life of a young Sigma Nu brother? Contact Alex Brown at [alex@htrjobs.com](mailto:alex@htrjobs.com) for more information on how you can serve as a mentor.

## ALUMNI UPDATES

### Duke Claussen (GA #1436)

(1150 Cockrell Dr. N.W., Kennesaw, GA 30152; [duke.claussen@carastar.com](mailto:duke.claussen@carastar.com)) I consider my Sigma Nu brothers as lifelong friends. Being a member of Sigma Nu taught me the importance of building true friendships. I have known many of these guys for over 40 years. Although we may not see each other often enough, when we do, all the memories and closeness come rushing back.

One memory we shared during this recent trip was the annual Island Party, specifically my senior year in 1978. Back then, we built a two-story structure over the pool with a rope bridge that spanned the length of the pool. Building the structure was a huge part of the fun. The party was one of the highlights of my time at GT. We reminisced about the fact that no one worried about any injuries and thankfully no one got hurt. In addition, it was one of the best times I can remember as my pledge class was attending our last big party together.

### Mark Smith (GA #1505)

(412 Plantation Drive, Macon, GA 31210; [smithmark7560@gmail.com](mailto:smithmark7560@gmail.com)) Hard to know where to start...it's been so long since December 1982 when I "got out"! I retired really early from a career in management consulting in 2007. Not at all the way I had it planned, but like so many things, better than I had planned! Two boys, neither an engineer, both musicians. Not a grandfather, yet...at least that I know of!

We live in Macon...we being me and my wife of over 33 years, Bonnie. She is by far the best thing I got out of Sigma Nu. We met at a rush party in the fall of 1979, and about 40 brothers were at our wedding in 1982. Our house cook, Ann Russell and her husband Bobby came, too.



### Erwin Schemankewitz (GA #1990)

(5380 Redfield Drive, Atlanta, GA 30338; [ehans89@gmail.com](mailto:ehans89@gmail.com)) I've parted ways with Rocky Mountain Artists, the agency I was working with prior and started my own venture, Ever Upward Entertainment. We too focus on booking and management and hope to expand into an "all-encompassing" music agency and partner with publicity companies, promoters, manufacturers, record companies, etc. in order to provide a full service to our roster.

## What's New with You?

Share your news, memories, reunion stories, and photos at

[www.sigmanugt.com](http://www.sigmanugt.com)!

# ANNUAL FUND

## Why Give Back to Sigma Nu?

### We Can Make a Collective Impact on Sigma Nu in Honor of the Impact it Made on Us

By Scott Hall (GA #1754), Communications Chair

You've heard the plea plenty of times: it is our goal to have every brother contribute \$100 a year every year. While it's an ambitious goal, it's not an unattainable one, especially when you consider the impact that Sigma Nu has made on all of us, and therefore the collective impact we can make on Sigma Nu.

If you're like me, you remember all of the good times you had and all of the great friendships that you built because of Sigma Nu. Perhaps you were afforded an advantage in the workplace or an opportunity that

would not have existed without your Sigma Nu relationships.

I'd like to thank the donors below who have paid forward their experience by supporting the annual fund. Thanks to their support and the hard work of our active brothers and alumni volunteers, we have the largest pledge class on campus. We hold great events every year thanks to financial contributions, such as the alumni dinner summer rush event, our Homecoming celebration, and other great opportunities to reconnect, thanks to your financial donations.

Reaching our goal of having every brother donate \$100 a year every year would give us a significant advantage over the other chapters on campus and would enable us to maintain our reputation as one of the strongest alumni programs at Georgia Tech. It also gives us an advantage in rush, keeping a strong alumni network that supports our active chapter.

Will you help us reach our goal? Go to [www.sigmanugt.com](http://www.sigmanugt.com) to make your 2015 donation.

## 2015 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

### Thank You!

Thank you to the following alumni who have shown their support of the annual fund since our giving year began January 1. Add your name to the list by making your gift before December 31! You can donate online at [www.sigmanugt.com](http://www.sigmanugt.com) or by mailing a check payable to "Gamma Alpha Alumni Association" to the return address on this newsletter.

#### Inner Circle Leader (\$1,000+)

Gary T. Jones 1968  
Michael C. McCloud 1982

#### Way of Honor Supporter (\$500 - \$749)

Daryl B. Adams  
Adiel L. Adams Jr. 1958  
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Jesse Scott Hall 1991  
Nick Romano 1991  
James Edward Matlock IV 1994

#### Light of Truth Supporter (\$250 - \$499)

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Benjamin T. Samuelson 1993  
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Josh Ryan Lesman 2002  
George P. Burdell 2008

#### White Star Club (\$100 - \$249)

McKinney (Mac) V Taylor 1948  
Robert Parker Templeton 1949  
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Clifford T McConnell 1951  
William C. Scott Jr. 1951  
James Clyde Edenfield 1954  
Paul M. Flood 1954  
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Don P. Pullum 1957  
William C. Sorrells 1958  
James (Fred) Frederick Felte 1959  
F. Mark Conway III 1960  
Jerry Cox 1960  
William H Poole 1960  
George W. York 1960  
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Michael Norton 1961  
Carlton F. Roberson 1961  
Carey R. Huff 1962  
E. Chester Stokes Jr. 1962  
Hugh D. Little 1963

C. Henry Pearson 1963  
Ab Conner 1964  
Darrell "Bones" Elwell 1965  
V. Hawley Smith Jr. 1965  
Steven Caldwell Menke 1966  
B. Scott Rich 1966  
H. Davis Whitehead Jr. 1966  
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Sherman J. Glass III 1967  
Jeff M. Golden III 1967  
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Steven Robert Baldwin 1968  
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Robert W. Kelly 1968  
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Charles Lee Douglas 1971  
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Rufus Rudy S. Johnson III 1972  
Jerald H. Williams 1972  
Raymond E. Woody 1972  
Raymond C. Ashe Jr. 1973  
Charles B. Darsey 1973  
John T. Rhett 1973  
Carl L. Williams III 1973  
Duke Claussen 1975  
William F. Loftis 1975  
Stephen Merle Schaezel 1976  
Mark D. Phair 1979

Michael Gross 1982  
Michael P. Hayes 1983  
Sanford McAllister 1983  
Ramsay S. Smith 1983  
Peter F. Lyle Sr. 1984  
R.K. Whitehead III 1984  
Hal William Lamb IV 1987  
Stephen R. Carney 1988  
Kyle Klatka 1992  
Stanley L. Deak 1994  
Joshua D. Roberts 1996  
Adam Townson Pratt 2003  
Chuck Jones 2004  
Martyn C. Mercer IV 2007  
Shane Sandridge 2007  
George F. Smith 2012

#### Commander's Club (Up to \$99)

Edward P. Owen 1940  
George F. Schminke III 1942  
Joseph E. May 1948  
Francis J. Hahne III 1968  
Justin M. Redmond 1997  
Collin Montgomery Hughes 2005  
Wesley Griggs 2007

*Reflects gifts received as of November 3, 2015.*



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

*What Ever Happened to Rollo the House Dog?*

*Plus a Win-Win for the Sigma Nu Mentoring Program...*

## COMMANDER'S REPORT

### Building a Community that Cannot be Rivaled

*By Commander Spencer Neely (GA #2100)*

We have continued to grow in many different facets, building off of the great groundwork that had been laid by our predecessors.

Fraternities have been put under the microscope of the media in recent years, which pushes us to be progressive and honorable in our own actions and to work with other members of the Greek community to ensure a bright future for Gamma Alpha and all GT Greeks. We have teamed up with a number of fraternities and sororities for our philanthropy and community service events to facilitate stronger relations across campus. We hold individual events as a way to raise money for members of the Georgia Tech Greek community, as well as the national Sigma Nu brotherhood, that have fallen on difficult times. For example, this spring we raised nearly \$10,000 to help a GT Kappa Sigma brother pay his medical bills for the major head injury that has left him out of school for over a year, and also supported a fellow Sigma Nu brother from the University of Iowa who could barely afford treatment for his brain cancer. We held a Haunted House philanthropy

event to raise money for a Phi Delta Theta neighbor who was injured earlier this fall.

As hard as we have worked to grow externally and impact the community, we have worked even harder to hold ourselves to higher individual standards. We increased our GPA from fall 2014 by nearly 10% in spring 2015, and are working to raise it even higher this semester. Our brothers are very involved in student organizations ranging from student ambassadors to IFC exec members to leaders of GT motor sports. We continue to be recognized by National for our hard work, receiving the award for Operational Excellence, and we maintain the tradition of providing amazing educational programming for our brothers and new members.

We have made progress in the past year, but there is still much room for growth. This fall we welcomed 28 amazing young men from all over the world into our newest pledge class — the largest pledge class on campus! We are working hard to ensure that they will continue to expand the legacy that was left to us and will soon be left in their hands.

## ALUMNI REUNIONS

### Brotherhood—and Friendships—Last a Lifetime



The Sigma Nu experience lasts a lifetime, as evidenced by a group of Gamma Alpha alumni who made the trip to South Bend for the GT-Notre Dame game this season.

**Duke Claussen (GA #1436)** writes “We spent the weekend together in Chicago where we attended a Cubs game and had dinner. It was a wonderful reunion and a great time to catch up. Just wish the Jackets had played better.”

Pictured (left to right): **Keith Butler** (David Butler’s son), **Bill Robinson (GA #1459)**, **Duke Claussen**, **Dave Ogden**, **John Dupuy (GA #1433)** (kneeling), **Allen Wilbanks (GA #1438)**, **David Butler (GA #1468)**, and **Steve McLeod (GA #1460)**.

*How are you maintaining your lifelong Sigma Nu connections? Share your pictures and stories at [www.sigmanugt.com](http://www.sigmanugt.com) or by emailing [alumninews@affinityconnection.com](mailto:alumninews@affinityconnection.com).*