

UPCOMING EVENT

Sigma Nu Homecoming Celebration

Saturday, October 21
Pre-game BBQ Pig Roast
at Sigma Nu
w/ Live music

GT vs. Wake Forest

**Post-Game Alumni
Reception**
at Sigma Nu
Music, Food & Drink

ALUMNI OFFICERS

Gamma Alpha Alumni Association

President

Alex Brown (GA #1759)

Vice President

Grant Norwood (GA #1673)

Treasurer

Adam Fuller (GA #1701)

Annual Fund Chair

Josh Roberts (GA #1810)

Chapter Advisor

Al Etheridge (GA #1723)

Homecoming Coordinator

Joe Gammie GA#2032

Rush Advisor

Jonathan Sangster (GA #1946)

Communications

Scott Hall (GA #1754)

Sigma Nu Housing Corporation

President

Grant Norwood (GA #1673)

Treasurer

Adam Fuller (GA #1701)

Legal Counsel

Mason Cargill (GA #1281)

CPA

Chris Pappadakis (GA #1726)

Board Members

Alex Brown (GA #1759)

Joe Gammie (GA #2032)

Scott Hall (GA#1754)

Josh Roberts (GA #1810)

Frank Spears (GA #1326)



The Rose & Star

Gamma Alpha • Sigma Nu Fraternity • Georgia Tech
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THE GATHERING

Don't Wait Until It's Too Late to Reconnect

Old Snakes Preserve 50-Year Friendships, Tribute Lost Brothers at Annual Gathering

Fraternity life was big in the sixties at Georgia Tech, and it was easy for the '64 Sigma Nu pledge class to bond during the years they spent together in the old house at 750 Fowler Street. They got close in those four years of walking up the hill to class. It was even easy to stay close for a few years after graduation – standing up in each other's weddings and meeting at homecoming – but then life started to get in the way.

"I had no concept at the time just how valuable it would be to have these brothers be a part of my life for 50 years and counting," says Steve Baldwin. "We have all gone through so much together and have been there for each other time and time again."

Brothers started to have families and relocate, and keeping in touch got harder and harder. They wanted to get together, but a reunion never happened. Then life intervened, again. Two brothers, **George Fauerbach** and **Ross Miller**, from the '64 pledge class died in late 2003, and early 2004, and a group of four brothers – **Dave Bassett**, **John Thigpen**, **Fred Link** and **J Meyer** – decided to seize the day and start the Gathering of Old Snakes.



According to Jim Meyer, there are numerous pictures from the gatherings over the years, but this one is special. "It says a lot about brotherhood," he says. Gerry Widegren, seated, was in a terrible car accident during spring break in 1966. Three Sigma Nus were killed and Gerry was seriously injured. He has mobility issues now, but the group involves him in as many events as they can. "This is a picture of us taking Gerry to the beach for a group photo at sunset," said Jim. "Gerry is my brother, as are all the guys."

They settled on a beach house reminiscent of a big fraternity house on Anna Maria Island, just west of Bradenton, Fla. and picked a weekend to meet the following spring. Another Sigma Nu brother, **Jack Painter**, joined them when the date rolled around. J Meyer remembers that he hadn't seen Jack since the '70s. He added to a great weekend filled with old memories, old jokes and catching up on life over dinner and drinks.

It was a great weekend and they all agreed to do it again.

Six weeks later, in June of 2004, Jack Painter died of a heart attack. That was when the group of friends knew that they had to make the Gathering of Old Snakes an annual event. They opened it up to brothers who lived in the house when they were at Gamma Alpha, from those who had been seniors when they pledged to the new class that joined the year they graduated. Twelve brothers met at the beach house the next year, and it grew to 25-30 every year since then. Some brothers can make it every year, some come every other year.

J Meyer credits the gathering's success to
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THE GATHERING

Reconnecting

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a few things. It came at a perfect time in the brothers' lives. "We started it after our own kids were off to college and we brothers started retiring," he says. "We had time to spend a weekend in Florida. The cost has been kept reasonable because getting to Anna Maria Island is easy and relatively inexpensive."

He and Dave Bassett run the event with a combination of free time and scheduled events, which include volunteer work in the local community. While at school, they were accustomed to having work parties, whether to fix the fraternity house up for Rush or to clean up after a band party. So, working together on a Saturday morning for a charity event is very familiar and seems like old times. They've done everything from cleaning up the grounds of a children's

home to excavating foundations for Habitat for Humanity to participating in a corn hole tournament sponsored by the Rotary Club. They sit under the trees at Mar Vista

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restaurant and eat fish they all caught an hour before, now blackened to perfection.

Every year the brothers join for a group photo in their matching shirts (which are embroidered with the year and 'Gathering of Old Snakes'), and the pictures on their Facebook page, Sigma Nu Gathering, look like a continuation of their pledge class photos back at the house on Fowler Street ... brothers living life together and having a great time doing it.

But it's this snapshot, taken before the official group photo, that is priceless. The brothers gather around Gerry Widegren, taking him to the beach for the group photo on the beach at sunset. Gerry was in a car accident with three other Sigma Nus during spring break 1966. They were killed, and Gerry was severely injured. Then, as now, his brothers gather around him. In the split second that the photo was taken, you can see grins, stories, hard work... the strength of a brotherhood. It's true fraternity in a single frame.



The '64 Pledge class and their dates: Jim Allison, Bruce Cook, Lane Crocker, Tom Buckler, Jimmy Adams, Jack Painter, Bones Elwell, Bill Phelps, Ray Myers, Charlie Feuchter, Bill



A group of Old Snakes at this year's gathering.

Note: We are happy to inform you that the beach house emerged from Irma unscathed! Make your plans now for next May 3-6, to make the 15th Annual Gathering of Old (we can no longer deny it) Snakes the largest ever!

For more information, contact David Bassett at dhb944t@yahoo.com or J Meyer at jmeyer332@aol.com.

WHAT OUR ALUMNI ARE SAYING

“Why I Volunteer”

The Gamma Alpha Alumni Association and the Sigma Nu House Corporation are thriving and continue to guide one of the most successful chapters on campus, thanks in large part to the hard work and commitment of our dedicated volunteers. Without their ongoing efforts, we wouldn't be able to maintain our alumni communications program; host frequent alumni events; support the active chapter through scholarships, resources, and mentorship; and upkeep our prestigious home at Georgia Tech.

Several of our current volunteers recently weighed in on why they are honoring their lifelong commitment to Sigma Nu by giving their time in their alumni years...

“I volunteer because I had a great experience and gained much value from my time as an active brother. It's satisfying to stay in touch with the people and the organization from which I gained so much, and to augment the experience for subsequent generations of brothers.”

*Al Etheridge (GA #1723)
Chapter Advisor, Gamma Alpha Alumni Association*

“I volunteer because I love the people who make up Gamma Alpha. The guys I matriculated with remain among the best friends today, and I see this as a common theme among most other Gamma Alphas in the years following graduation. Not only do I cherish this camaraderie, but I also appreciate our great history, tradition, and legacy. I think it is important to perpetuate and preserve this for future generations.”

*Alex Brown (GA #1759)
President, Gamma Alpha Alumni Association;
Board Member, Sigma Nu House Corporation*

“Gamma Alpha helped me grow in many different ways and exposed me to opportunities that I otherwise would not have been afforded during college. It taught me business skills and how to be a responsible man, and provided me with lifelong friendships. In some ways, I owe a lot of my successes to Gamma Alpha and am prepared to spend a lifetime returning the favor.”

*Scott Hall (GA #1754)
Communications Chair,
Board Member, Sigma Nu House Corporation,
Gamma Alpha Alumni Association*

“Gamma Alpha and our alumni association have provided a number of opportunities during my collegiate and professional career that I would not have been as fortunate to find anywhere else. I see it as my obligation to help the collegiate chapter in the same way by volunteering to help with the fraternity's endeavors. We have seen the chapter flourish from our alumni guidance over the years, and I am proud to be a part of that effort.”

*Joe Gammie (GA #2032)
Alumni Events,
Board Member, Sigma Nu House Corporation*

“Gamma Alpha has meant so much to me since the day I pledged as a freshman. Without the support, friendship, and mentorship of the brothers and alumni, I would have never ‘gotten out’. I feel it only honorable to give back to an organization that has done so much for me. By continuing my involvement with Gamma Alpha, I consistently see the value of giving back and the ways in which it helps shape future leaders as they leave Georgia Tech and start their own successful careers. I learn so much from each of them.”

*Josh Roberts (#1810)
Annual Fund Chair, Gamma Alpha Alumni Association; Board Member, Sigma Nu House Corporation*

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Throwback to 30 Years Ago



Gamma Alpha has countless memories from our chapter's history that have been captured on film, like this one from the 1987 *Technique*. Can you believe it was taken 30 years ago?

Some memories from that year, according to *Technique*, include: Chapman, take a stresstab...Schlong Good Ol' Days...Can Pete bring dates?...I love you Booger!...Betas in the pool...Snakemobile...Iron Headed Lenny...1/2 gallon Eddie...Walk like a Beav...FFTDDH...Maaan!!...TB around town whoopin'...Bad boy Daddy Brus...

Swim in Mullet...Eatin' ain't Cheatin'... All those for a "Look Elsewhere"?... Moron...High profile road trip...Things will change...Gimme' some a dat m—.

If any brothers from 1987 can weigh in on these memories, or share more photos, please do so at www.sigmanugt.com, by emailing alumninews@affinityconnection.com, or by including them with your gift in the enclosed envelope. We encourage brothers from ALL eras to share their news, stories, memories, and photos for publication.

CHAPTER REPORT

Gamma Alpha Earns Second Consecutive Rock Chapter Designation

Chapter Welcomes 19 New Members, Sets Sights on First Ever Spring Pledge Class

Sigma Nu continues to stand apart from other national organizations, earning Rock Chapter designation for the past two grand chapters. Members take substantial pride in this title because it is attained solely by adhering to the honor system to encourage participation.

Steps were taken by the brotherhood to combat negative stereotypes and ensure safety for visitors, starting with adhering to a national trend to eliminate outdated southern traditions. A painting depicting the old Georgia state flag was removed from the house and replaced with an American flag, painted by recent spring graduate **Craig Cornick**. Active brothers attended workshops on preventing sexual violence, amid the rising number of fraternities making negative media headlines.

This semester we recruited 19 new members and will take our first



ever pledge class in the spring. The goal is to recruit 6-8 new members.

In 570 collective philanthropy hours, we have raised \$1,500 for our charities; The Helping Hand Initiative, American Red Cross, Books for Africa, American heart Association, Camp Sunshine and Camp Twin Lakes. We are also planning a leftover food donation drive.

At the house, exterior lighting, front lawn sod, and chapter room floors were recently repaired and the pool filter replaced. Repairs to the laundry room and basement storage

area are in progress. All house improvements are made possible by brother participation and alumni donations. Thank you to those who help keep Sigma Nu among the top fraternities at Georgia Tech!

FALL 2017 NEW MEMBERS

Tucker Alexander
Buckhead, GA

Bradley Arms
Johns Creek, GA

Jackson Brantley
Savannah, GA

Kaden Campbell
Lawrenceville, GA

Connor Dowd
Atlanta, GA

Jack Dwyer
Acworth, GA

Zachary Gauvin
Narragansett, RI

Diego Gonzalez-Varela
Mexico City, Mexico

Justin Holler
Roswell, GA

Evan Juncal
Pittsburgh, PA

Michael O'Neill
Ambler, PA

Tyler Petrell
Charlottesville, VA

Mack Poulson
Lebanon, NJ

Parker Quarles
Canton, GA

Tyler Seifert
Mattituck, NY

William Smith
Milledgeville, GA

Luke Tomasovic
Butler, PA

Sam Williams
Wakefield, RI

Brady Winski
Atlanta, GA