

THE SPIRIT OF THE Southern Woods



GAMMA IOTA CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI

SPRING 2025

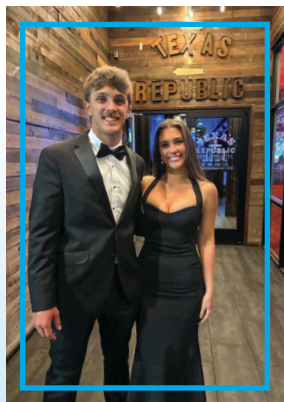
FORWARD TOGETHER



*Philanthropy, Brotherhood,
and Resilience in Motion*

The spring semester began with a rare and beautiful snowfall in Baton Rouge, offering an uncommon view of the House of the Southern Woods. Against this serene backdrop, the brothers of Gamma Iota launched into a semester full of highs and heartache.

This year marked the fifth annual Sigma Chi Derby Days, benefiting Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center in Baton Rouge and the Huntsman Cancer Institute in Salt Lake City. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Derby Chairman **Jason Wong '26**, our sorority partners, chapter brothers, and corporate sponsors, we are proud to announce that we raised over \$65,000. This brings our five-year total to more than \$300,000! Special thanks go to our alumni sponsors, Rickey Heroman's Florist and Asphalt Products Unlimited Inc., whose continued support made this achievement possible.



Robbie Blanchard '27 escorts his Kappa Delta girlfriend, Madison Guidry, our new Gamma Iota Sweetheart!

Socially, the chapter remained active and energized. Highlights included the second annual Animal House Toga Party, the third annual senior send-off at the Sandbar on False River, and our third-consecutive out-of-state formal—this year held in Fort Worth, Texas.



From left: Sam McCall '26, Tommy O'Keefe '26, Robbie Blanchard '27, Zach Broussard '26, Tommy Bell, Chase O'Con '27, Tyler Mercil '26, and Palmer Bruns '26 attend LSU's Greek Life Awards. Mr. Tommy was awarded Chapter Advisor of the Year for his contributions to the chapter and the entire Greek life community.

Academically and in campus leadership, Gamma Iota continues to excel. We are proud to hold a top 4 GPA among IFC fraternities, maintaining a chapter GPA above 3.1. Also, two of our brothers currently serve on LSU's Interfraternity Council: **Tyler Mercil '26** as vice president of recruitment and **Zach Broussard '26** as director of recruitment registration. **Omar Badawi '26** and **Malek Badawi '28** also recently ran for positions within LSU Student Government, and were elected as the College of Engineering President and a College of Engineering Senator respectively. Another highlight to celebrate was the recognition of our chapter advisor's outstanding leadership; Mr. Tommy Bell was honored as Chapter Advisor of the Year by LSU Greek Life!

Yet, this semester was not without deep sorrow. On January 1, 2025, **Kareem Badawi '28**, a brother of Omar and cousin to **Ali Badawi '27** and Malek, tragically lost his life in the New Year's Eve attack in New Orleans. Kareem, a member of Alabama's Iota Iota Chapter, was a beacon of light who left an enduring mark on his brothers there and on all of us at Gamma Iota. We ask that you continue to keep the Badawi family in your thoughts and prayers.

Through adversity, the brothers of Gamma Iota have only grown stronger. Unity, resilience, and brotherhood forged during this semester have laid a foundation for the future. We look forward to building on this momentum as we enter the summer and prepare for fall recruitment.



In Hoc,
Palmer Bruns '26
Consul



From left: Palmer Bruns '26, Max Crocker '26, Patrick Buch '26, and their dates enjoy formal in Fort Worth, Texas.



WHAT'S NEW WITH GAMMA IOTA?

ALUMNI CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

The alumni chapter enjoyed a host of memorable events during fall 2024 and winter 2025!

- October 25-26: Approximately 30 alumni assisted and/or attended the Gamma Iota initiation at the House of the Southern Woods.
- December 4: The annual Christmas Party was held at the Baton Rouge Country Club.
- December 17: A dinner meeting was held at the House of the Southern Woods to honor the fall 2024 graduates and to welcome them into the alumni ranks.
- January 14: A consolidated White Rose Ceremony was conducted at the Episcopal School Chapel to honor the 72 Gamma Iota brothers who have entered Chapter Eternal since December 2019.
- February 26: The second annual Louisiana Sig Brotherhood Steak Night was held at the home of **Rickey Heroman '76**, with 70 Sig alumni from LSU and ULL in attendance..
- April: In a coordinated effort, representatives of the House Corporation, Chapter Advisory Board, and alumni chapter reviewed and ranked applications for the Lod Cook Sigma Chi Leadership Scholarship. Rankings were submitted to the LSU Foundation for the awarding of six scholarships for \$2,500 each for the 2025-26 LSU academic year.

FUTURE ALUMNI GATHERINGS

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

- May 13: Dinner at the House of the Southern Woods to honor Gamma Iota's 20-plus graduating seniors
- June 24: Monthly Meeting
- July 22 or 29: Brotherhood & Bar-B-Que

Night (date and location TBD)

- August 26: Dinner meeting at the House of the Southern Woods to recognize the six Gamma Iota brothers who received Lod Cook Leadership Scholarships for the 2024-25 academic year
- September/October: Gamma Iota initiation
- November 7-8: Celebration of the 100th anniversary of Gamma Iota Chapter at LSU
 - The plan is to have individual parties at Baton Rouge alumni houses on Friday night for alumni from each decade (starting with the 1960s), an open house at the House of the Southern Woods at noon on Saturday, and a gala at the Baton Rouge Country Club on Saturday night. An invitation with the details will be distributed soon to all Gamma Iota alumni!
- December: Annual Christmas party

HOUSE CORPORATION ACTIVITIES

The House of the Southern Woods House Corporation recently hired Jessica Djonne as the new Gamma Iota house director. She will assume her duties in early June.

In addition to all the many repairs and renovations completed to the House of the Southern Woods during the spring and summer of 2024, the House Corporation has also scheduled the following renovations/procurement during the summer of 2025:

- Renovation of the two bedrooms in the downstairs hall to increase the number of spaces available for Gamma Iota brothers to live in the House of the Southern Woods.
- Purchase of a new stove for the kitchen.
- Restoration of the kitchen floor.

WE'RE PUTTING OUT THE WELCOME SIGN!

Know Someone Who Should Be Here?

We're always looking for promising young men to bring into Gamma Iota and would appreciate recommendations of men you know who would be a good fit.

Send their info to **Palmer Bruns '26** at (225) 421-440 or **Robbie Blanchard '27** at (985) 226-2128. Registration for formal recruitment will open over the summer, but we appreciate receiving recommendations ASAP! Also, if you are interested in being involved in the alumni side of initiation, please reach out to **Nick Morrison '27** at (954) 552-2707.

GOALS FOR GAMMA IOTA



- 1 Win our third-consecutive Peterson.
- 2 Improve our chapter GPA.
- 3 Increase alumni involvement in anticipation of our 100th anniversary.

CONGRATULATIONS, Spring 2025 Graduates!

Noah Bates
Sam Benes
Justin Boyle
Tyler Brooks
Braden Burmaster
Wyatt Fakler
Quinn Farnet
Andrew Godfrey

Johnny Ha
Damien Hirschfield
Gavin Langston
Brennan Phillips
Graham Postel
Zane Scott
Brice Schrupf
Will Spielmann

Austin Stubbs
Ashwin Sundaram
Brian Toman
Grant Trider
Gavin Tuite
Robert S. Yeargin IV



Never Forgotten

GAMMA IOTA CHAPTER HOSTS WHITE ROSE CEREMONY

In January, a consolidated White Rose Ceremony was conducted at the Episcopal School Chapel to honor the 72 Gamma Iota brothers who have entered Chapter Eternal since December 2019.

Edward A. Amar Jr.
William Thomas Barham Moss
Reid B. Bateman
Bruce B. Bickham
Gaylord M. Bickham
Lee Bozeman
Douglas S. Cadwallader
Carey T. Cantrelle
Stephen F. Carter
Theodore A. Castillo
Walter L. Comeaux II
John Compton Jr.
Lodwick M. Cook
Jesse H. Cooper
Charles R. Corkern
William E. Crawford
John E. Daigle Jr., M.D.
Roy H. Davis
Willard B. Dugas
Richard L. Edwards

Glen P. Eggers
James S. Farmer
James H. Farris
Robert R. Fitzhugh III
Alan Forbes
Ira S. George
Michael A. Grace Jr.
Edward Graves
Robert Hamacher
Curtis A. Hennesy
Geoffrey Hingle
John W. Hoppe Jr., M.D.
H. Hill
A. Hood
Adrian Johnson
George "Kim" Johnson
George H. Jones, M.D.
Stuart S. Kay
Robert M. Keilwasser
Charles H. Keller

Charles B. Kean
George Kearney
John Lanier
Daniel K. Lewis
Natale A. Maestri Jr.
J. David Malone
Michael D. McCoy
Hal B. McMurdo
William T. Monroe
Richard Morris
James W. O'Neal III
Mark T. Ott
Joel P. Oustalet
Lawrence C. Paddock
Mathew T. Palmer
Jean E. Pierson
Brent J. Ramirez
James L. Richardson
Frank C. Riley
James R. Robinson, M.D.

Stephen M. Selby, D.D.S.
Donald Smith
Bobby E. Stanley
Harry S. Tipton
George R. Trelles
James W. Vick
Nicholas A. Waters
Michael W. Wascom
Thomas M. Willis
William L. Wilson

The House of the Southern Woods looks beautiful in white during a historic snow day in Baton Rouge.

***Kareem Badawi, Iota Iota** was a victim of the January 1 terror attack in New Orleans. He was a Sig at The University of Alabama, the brother of **Omar Bawadi '26**, and the cousin of **Ali '27** and **Malek Badawi '28**, who are all members of Gamma Iota Chapter.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

Consul
Palmer Bruns '26
(225) 421-7440

Pro Consul
Sam McCall '26

Annotator
Charles O'Con '27

Quaestor
Tommy O'Keefe '26

Magister
Max Crocker '26

Recruitment Chairman
Robbie Blanchard '27
(985) 226-2128

Risk Manager
Blake Morella '27

Social Chairman
Dylan Quinn '26

Kustos
Nick Morrison '27

What Does SIGMA CHI Mean to You?

We Asked the New Members

"Joining Sigma Chi marked a new chapter in my life. In just a short time, it has opened so many doors and opportunities."

Tucker Belaire '27

"Sigma Chi has given me a brotherhood rooted in shared values, lifelong friendships, and a commitment to becoming the best version of myself. It has been one of the most meaningful parts of my college experience."

Christian Knowles '28

"Since joining Sigma Chi, I've gained a strong sense of community on campus and built lasting relationships that have truly enriched my college experience."

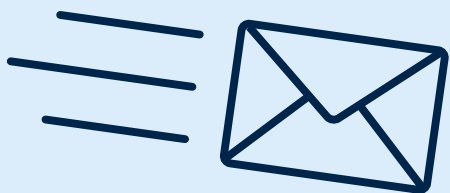
Jude Roach '28



KEEP
YOUR EMAIL
CURRENT WITH
**GAMMA
IOTA!**

**Make sure you're
receiving all things
Sigma Chi at Louisiana
State University
in your inbox.**

Send your email to
updatemyrecord@penningtonco.com
with "SX LSU Email"
in the subject line.



SIGMA CHI
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
P.O. Box 442100
LAWRENCE, KS 66044-2100

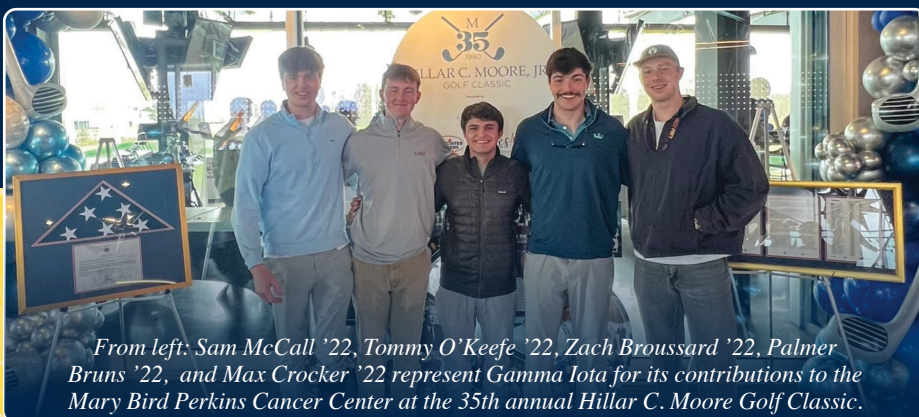
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Brothers gather for a commemorative photo with Tri Delta's winning Derby Days team. For their first-place finish, Tri Delta received a \$5,000 donation to their philanthropy, St. Jude.

SEE MORE PHOTOS AND UPDATES INSIDE!



From left: Sam McCall '22, Tommy O'Keefe '22, Zach Broussard '22, Palmer Bruns '22, and Max Crocker '22 represent Gamma Iota for its contributions to the Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center at the 35th annual Hillar C. Moore Golf Classic.