



G A M M A I O T A C H A P T E R O F S I G M A C H I

FALL 2022

Gamma Iota's Gatherings

Recent Meetings, Upcoming Events, and Exceptional Brothers

The Baton Rouge Sigma Chi Alumni Chapter recently held the following monthly meetings:

- May 24 – Organizational and Update Meeting
- June 28 – Verge Ausberry, LSU Assistant Athletic Director
- July 26 – Second Annual Brotherhood and Barbecue Feast at the House of the Southern Woods
- August 23 – **Scott Woodward '85**, LSU Athletic Director
- September 27 – **Dr. Curt Chastain '83** Discussing Men's Health
- October 26 – The Hon. **Garret Graves '94**, U.S. Congressman

Save the dates for these upcoming events:

NOVEMBER 18-19

Graduation classes of 1978-84 reunion.

On Friday, November 18, there will be a walking tour of the LSU campus in the afternoon followed by an evening casual gathering at the LSU Cook Foundation. There will be a brunch at the House of the Southern Woods for reunion attendees on the morning of Saturday, November 19.

DECEMBER 8

Alumni Christmas party at the Baton Rouge Country Club

The alumni chapter, in conjunction with the Chapter Advisory Board and the House Corporation, submitted 10 applications to the LSU Foundation for Lod Cook Sigma Chi Leadership Scholarships for the 2022-23 academic year. Six \$2,500 scholarships were awarded to:

Sawyer Coco '22
Justin Boyle '24
John LeBlanc '24
Peyton Meares '24
Camden Pfeiffer '24
Warren Zugbaum '24

In addition, the alumni chapter worked with the Sigma Chi Foundation for Bell Chapter Scholarships. Two \$1,000 scholarships were awarded for the 2022-23 academic year to:

Consul **Miles McLendon '23**
Peyton Meares '24



Brother Michael Ziblich '13 and Gayle Ziblich alongside Carter Kerrigan '25, this year's winner of the Keller Ziblich Memorial Scholarship. Carter's parents drove from New Orleans to watch the ceremony.



Gamma Iota brothers at the alumni meeting. From left: Order of Constantine Sig Rene Roberts '67, Significant Sig Robert Barham '70, Significant Sig and LSU Athletic Director Scott Woodward '85, Alumni Chapter President John Cadwallader '70, and Order of Constantine Sig Jim Bollinger Sr. '67.

In September, **Michael Ziblich '13** and his wife, Gayle, awarded a \$3,000 Ziblich Scholarship to **Carter Kerrigan '25**. The scholarship, given through their Ziblich Foundation, is awarded to the most outstanding upcoming sophomore and is dedicated to addressing mental health issues in memory of their son **Keller '11**.

Ten alumni actively participated as interviewers during our September 30-October 1 initiation. **John Cadwallader '70** and **Patrick Hardin '22**, both of whom are Certified Ritual Peers, evaluated the initiation for chapter certification. Gamma Iota conducted the initiation in an excellent manner, and the results of the evaluation will be forwarded to Sigma Chi Headquarters.



LESSONS FROM PLEDGESHIP

Andrew Carr '25

"Pledgeship has taught me a different meaning to brotherhood. It's not just a group of buddies; it's a group of organized men who practice the same values and have the same beliefs. These are men who will have your back, hold you accountable, and be with you when you need it the most. Ending my pledgeship, I have realized that I have met 47 guys who I will cherish for the rest of my life and do whatever I can to help them."

Joshua Arroyo '26

"Pledgeship was an extremely eye-opening five weeks. Throughout, I realized so much about myself that I would have never realized without pledgeship. I am happy to say that I have met 47 of the most distinguished men on campus that I am happy to call my brothers."

Ryan Blanchard '26

"I learned a lot about the fraternity, my brothers, and myself. I realized that the people I am surrounded by have the same interests and values as I do. My pledge class was very close, and it made my experience worthwhile."

Zach Broussard '26

"It taught me how truly amazing it is to be surrounded by individuals with morals and principles subsequent with my own. Sharing morals and common goals with my pledge class brought us closer than I could ever imagine in such a short span of time. These bonds I have created are just as strong, possibly even stronger, than some of the preexisting bonds in my life than have been present for numerous years. I can confidently say that I will forever be thankful to be a part of the Sigma Chi fraternity."

Connections Start Here

Significant Sig Robert Barham '70 Reflects on His Fraternal Experience

A simple upbringing leads to a good life. Growing up, **Robert Barham '70** lived in a rural country town comprising fewer than 100 people. So, in deciding where he wanted to invest in his education, he deliberately considered the drastic difference of a 100-person community compared to a community of thousands.

"I was looking for a place where I felt comfortable," Robert explained. "When visiting the Sigma Chi house, men were both welcoming and friendly. Not only was I drawn to them, but I also felt comfortable with them."

From his fraternal experience, Robert discovered the invaluable aspect of brotherhood, making Sigma Chi unequivocally meaningful. "The older members inspired me," Robert shared. "They demonstrated a reputable way to navigate college classes, and life in general."

After graduating, Robert served in the military and was stationed in Vietnam. Upon his return, he farmed for quite a few years until he was elected to office, noting, "I served in the state Senate for 14 years, then I was appointed as head of wildlife and fisheries. I'm retired now, so my wife and I are doing our best to see some magical places around the world."



Robert and his wife at the Great Wall of China.

Of the places Robert and his wife have traveled, they particularly enjoyed their visit to the Great Wall of China. To destinations such as Ukraine or Germany, Robert is fortunate to have the means to experience more of the world.

"If being recognized as a Significant Sig taught me anything, it's that I didn't end up on this journey by going at it alone," Robert enthused. "Success happens when a plethora of people encourage you. How I ended up where I am today is a tribute to the chapter."

To learn more about Robert, you can connect with him at jrmahrab@yahoo.com.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SPRING 2022 - FALL 2022

Consul
Miles McLendon '23

Quaester
Ethan Wachtel '24

Risk Manager
Heath Horridge '23

Pro Consul
Brian McConville '23

Magister
William Sheehan '24

Social Chairman
Sam Benes '25

Annotator
Camden Pfeiffer '24

Recruitment Chairman
Dominick Messina '24
(504) 919-1423
dmess1423@gmail.com

Kustos
Cooper Hand '24

OUR AUTHENTIC BROTHERHOOD

A SUCCESSFUL RITUAL, CAMPUS ACTIVITIES, AND MORE

BROTHERHOOD BONDING

Our social calendar began with an exchange with the Kappa Delta sorority at the Texas Club on September 8. Kappa Delta had more than 300 women show up for the event, making it their most attended exchange of all time. This was thanks to the efforts of our chapter sweetheart, **Caroline Azar '24**, who rounded up her sorority sisters to attend. Caroline's father, **Dr. George Azar '87**, was previously Pro Consul. Her mother, Dr. Debbie Azar, was also a Kappa Delta at LSU and was chapter sweetheart in 1987!

TAILGATES

Gamma Iota's tailgating presence on LSU's historic parade grounds is impossible to ignore. Brother **Austin Stubbs '25** leads a tailgating team that sets up for every game at 6 a.m. next to LSU's other fraternities. Our tailgate, however, is the largest every week. Hundreds of brothers and sorority women enjoy hanging out with us before walking over to Death Valley.

RECRUITMENT

After four days, we finished recruitment with 55 accepted bids, making for an over-75%

acceptance rate. Of the 15 fraternities on campus, we had the fourth-largest pledge class. Our new fall class, the Theta pledge class, had more in-state members than ever before, as about 50% are from Louisiana while the rest came from across the country.

NEW MEMBER EDUCATION

We started pledgship by educating new members on the values and importance of Sigma Chi. Throughout the process, pledges learned not just about the fraternity, but also about themselves. Our magister, **Trace Sheehan '24**, guided Theta class through a rigorous program, and whenever a pledge showed that they did not meet our organization's high standards, they were swiftly removed from the process.

INITIATION AND EVALUATION

On October 1, the chapter held its second-ever initiation, this time with 47 initiates. Led by Kustos **Cooper Hand '24** and **John Cadwallader '70**, it ran flawlessly, much to the benefit of the new initiates. Annotator **Camden Pfeiffer '24**, Pro Consul **Brian McConville '23**, and I memorized pages of lines to make the performance as special as possible. As a

trained peer ritual advisor, John graded our performance of initiation and ritual using a rubric from headquarters. The chapter passed this test with flying colors. This means that, for the first time in seven years, Gamma Iota had a certified and authentic ritual in the eyes of the Sigma Chi international fraternity.

With the newly initiated class, Gamma Iota Chapter of Sigma Chi now has a total of 144 undergraduate members, the largest the fraternity has ever been since our removal in 2015. We are among the top five largest chapters on LSU's campus (out of 15), and we are the fastest growing chapter on the row. With under 20 seniors graduating during the 2022-23 academic year, this number will only grow with time.

Fall semester has been immensely successful thus far, and I hope to continue accomplishing great things in the time I have left before my term ends on October 31.

In Hoc,
Miles McLendon '23
Consul



The Sigma Chi tailgate for the Mississippi State game on September 17.



Sigma Chi's Bid Day activities included a pledge class basketball tournament.



Former Consul Will Thomas '23 and Chapter Sweetheart Caroline Azar '24.



The Theta pledge class singing to new members of Kappa Delta sorority, with new member Jack Balhoff '26 raised on a pledge brother's shoulders.

**CHECK OUT WHAT
YOUR BROTHERS
ARE DOING INSIDE!**



*Magister Trace Sheehan '24 and
Consul Miles McLendon '23 with their dogs at
Sigma Chi's tailgate.*



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Welcome, New Members

Riley Andreen | Chicago, Ill.
Joshua Arroyo | Baton Rouge, La.
Omar Badawi | Baton Rouge, La.
Jack Balhoff* | Lafayette, La.
(Uncle **David Balhoff**)
Ryan Blanchard | Mandeville, La.
Zach Broussard* | Erath, La.
(Uncle **Kevin Dubois**)
Palmer Bruns | Baton Rouge, La.
Patrick Buch | Baltimore, Md.
Andrew Carr | Baton Rouge, La.
Everett Catron* | Houston, Texas
(Father **Doug Catron, Epsilon Xi**)
Caden Cloud | Baton Rouge, La.

Max Crocker | The Woodlands, Texas
Chase Cummiskey | New Orleans, La.
Zach Darling | Richmond, Va.
Andre Domengeaux | Lafayette, La.
Emerson Eccles | Atlanta, Ga.
Jackson Ford | Pineville, La.
Bayden Frye | West Monroe, La.
Gage Goulas | Lafayette, La.
Ryan Kowitz | Marietta, La.
Jackson Lanaux | Mandeville, La.
Trey Lapidario* | Sykesville, Md.
(Uncle **Len Lapidario, Mu Mu**)
Justin Maloney | Columbia, Md.

Sam McCall | Boxford, Mass.
Jackson McDonald | West Monroe, La.
Brogan McKeown | Spring Grove, Ill.
Tyler Mercil | Baton Rouge, La.
Jackson Mills | Dallas, Texas
Jack Muhly | West Chester, Pa.
Tommy O'Keefe | El Segundo, Calif.
Michael Patrylak | Chicago, Ill.
James Patterson | Atlanta, Ga.
Tucker Perry | Charleston, S.C.
Marco Petroni | Brooklyn, N.Y.
Dylan Quinn | Dallas, Texas
Cohen Ramirez | Covington, La.

*Legacy



Gamma Iota's newest initiates.