



GAMMA IOTA CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI

FALL 2023

SPRUCING UP

It has been a busy year for the House of the Southern Woods. During the spring semester, the undergraduate chapter and house corporation split the cost of replacing the downstairs furniture. This included 15 new leather sofas and loveseats, which are a big upgrade from our collection of aged and outdated seating.

In addition, the entire house was cleaned and pressure washed earlier this year. In early summer, we commissioned an overhaul of the lighting and electrical systems to maintain insurability of the house.

In July, we undertook a major renovation of the existing flooring in the common areas.



All first-floor carpet was removed and thrown away, and in its place, subcontractors applied a floor-leveling compound and new luxury vinyl tile. LVT has a 15-year warranty, an attractive wood-like appearance, and is tailor-made for high-traffic areas. The project was received very well by the undergraduate chapter, and the entire downstairs has a brand-new look and feel!

In Hoc,
Scott A. Ritter '99
House Corporation President

AN UPDATE ON CHAPTER HOUSE RENOVATIONS

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Six Gamma Iota Sigs were awarded 2023-24 Lod Cook Sigma Chi Leadership Scholarships in the amount of \$2,500 each. Congratulations, brothers!

Jacob Alberts '24
Samuel Benes '25
Samuel Elliott '24

William Knowles '24
Brennan Phillips '24
Ethan Wachtel '24

Reaching New Heights

UNDERGRADUATES START THE YEAR ON A HIGH NOTE

Bring Home the Gold

Gamma Iota Chapter is extremely pleased to announce that we have been awarded a Peterson Blue Chapter Award for the 2022-23 school year! The Peterson is awarded annually to chapters that excel in all aspects, including academics, campus involvement, philanthropy, and initiation. This was the first award for Gamma Iota since 1999-2000.

New Blood

We recently initiated 53 outstanding young men into Gamma Iota, with a strong foundation in Louisiana as well as states ranging from Connecticut to Montana. These men are continuing to build upon the strong foundation of former leaders, and we are excited to see the great things they will accomplish throughout their four years.

We Need You!

Please keep an eye out for Derby Days programming this fall and next spring. After a very successful campaign last spring, we finished seventh in the country in total funding. Gamma Iota is making a push for \$100,000 and needs support in every aspect!

If you would be interested in sponsoring or getting involved, please reach out to our Derby Days Chairman **Cooper Hand '24** at (206) 455-4473 or chand3@lsu.edu for more information.

In Hoc,
Camden Pfeiffer '24
Chapter President



New members take a commemorative photo with the chapter.



Alumni Updates

Ernest Angelo Jr. '56 is still actively working as an independent petroleum engineer. He has monthly lunches with Midland Sigma Chi alumni and is also the father of two ΣX sons. He is an avid LSU fan and tries to make at least one football and baseball game a year. He resides in Midland, Texas. Email: ernest@angleomail.com

Col. Lynn L. Leblanc '57 retired from the Air Force in 1983. He started the meteorology program at ULM and retired as professor emeritus in 2005. He was inducted into the LSU Hall of Honor in 2004. He now lives in Pineville, La. Email: lynnlale@aol.com

Jake B. Lowenhaupt '57 turned 90 in December 2022. He enjoys gym workouts, ping pong, 8-ball pool, and walking. He and his wife live six months in Metairie, La., and six months in Clyde, N.C., on a mountaintop. Email: jake.pat62@gmail.com

Walter M. Hunter Jr. '62 spends much of his time at his second home in a Sandestin resort near Destin, Fla. His other residence is in Alexandria, La. Email: whunter4403@gmail.com

Leslie A. Nicholson Jr. '62 and his wife, Laureen Higgins Nicholson (a Sigma Chi sweetheart in 1962), moved to Baton Rouge from Chevy Chase, Mo., in July 2021. They now live in Bocage Lake. "I am still playing lots of tennis and serving in the Louisiana Naval War Commission for the USS Kidd," Leslie said. Email: lesnicholson6600@gmail.com

Swift T. Pascoli '66 retired after 50 years in the construction industry. He worked with many ΣX s, including **Jack McDuff '51, Arizona '51**, the 50th Grand Consul. "All ΣX s have the values and beliefs of honorable men," he said. He recently left his lake home in Hayesville, N.C., for a winter retreat in Panama City Beach. Email: swiftpascoli@att.net

George E. French III '69 served as USMC from 1969-72. He was released from active duty with the rank of captain. After graduating from LSU, he worked in hospital administration for 42 years and as CEO of Minden Medical Center for the last 32. "It's great seeing the resurgence of Gamma Iota Chapter with the help of **John Cadwallader '70**, a fellow brother from Gamma Iota!" George lives in Minden, La. Email: george.french@lpnt.net

Brent A. Gregory '71 retired after 25 years in banking and 10 years with the Kentucky Department of Revenue. He lives in Grand Rivers on Kentucky Lake in western Kentucky. He has four grandchildren and is an avid golfer and LSU Tiger fan. Email: justbrent2007@aol.com

Jerry Duaine Robertson Jr. '71 received his MBA from UNCCH in 1973. He worked for Xerox from 1973-78, with Linde from 1978-98, and for Pinewild CC in Pinehurst, N.C., from 1999-2010. He has been a member of the Governors Club in Charlotte, N.C., since 2010 and enjoys golfing and traveling. Email: duaine.robertson@att.net

Randall K. Theunissen '77 joined Allen and Gooch law firm in Lafayette, La., after graduating from LSU Law School. He has been at the firm since 1977. He enjoys hunting and fishing with his three sons and his grandchildren. He joined the Gamma Iota alumni group and enjoys participating! Email: randytheunissen@allengooch.com

Chapter Eternal

Dr. George H. Jones '42, 51st Grand Consul of Sigma Chi Fraternity, entered Chapter Eternal on August 21, 2023. A memorial service for Dr. Jones was held on September 15 at the First United Methodist Church in Baton Rouge. The White Rose Ceremony was led by former Consul **Bob Jones '48**, with former Grand Consul **Joel Cunningham, Tennessee-Chattanooga '65** providing a moving eulogy of Dr. Jones' illustrious life. Approximately 60 Gamma Iota Sigs, alumni, and undergraduates attended the event.



Brothers gather to honor Dr. George H. Jones.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

Consul
Camden Pfeiffer '24

Pro Consul
Austin Stubbs '25

Annotator
Peyton Meares '24

Quaestor
Carter Kerrigan '25

Magister
William Knowles '24

Recruitment Chairman
Tyler Mercil '26

Risk Manager
Nico Lonergan '25

Social Chairman
Sam Benes '25

Kustos
Sam Elliott '25



SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Recent Alumni Meetings and Activities

TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT YOUR ALUMNI HAVE BEEN UP TO BELOW.

May 23 – Dr. Beau Clark, East Baton Rouge Parish coroner, provided the alumni chapter with a most interesting presentation on the impacts of fentanyl in the Baton Rouge community, with specific information on the impact at LSU and in the Greek system.

June 27 – During a happy hour at Red Stick Social, House Corporation President **Scott Ritter '99** provided an update on the removal of the old carpet and installation of new floors throughout the House of the Southern Woods.

August 8 – The third annual Brotherhood and Bar-B-Que Feast was held at the home of **David Phillips '86** and his wife, Dawn. **Stephen Waguespack '96**, Louisiana state governor candidate, was our guest speaker. Approximately 75 Gamma Iota Sig brothers attended this event.

September 29-30 – **John Cadwallader '70** and **Tommy Bell '84** observed the five-week Preparation for Brotherhood (P4B) program in the days leading up to the initiation activities for our 53 newest Gamma Iota brothers. John worked with the Gamma Iota ritual committee in the planning of initiation activities. Sixteen alumni assisted with the initiation interviews, and John, as a ritual peer, reported on the activities as part of the chapter evaluation necessary to pursue a Peterson Significant Chapter Award.

October 24 – Alumni were invited to the House of the Southern Woods to meet and interact with our newest initiates and hear an update on Gamma Iota Chapter activities.

DON'T MISS THIS UPCOMING EVENT

December 6 – Mark your calendars for the annual Christmas party at the Baton Rouge Country Club. We hope to see you there!



Ryan Kowitz with his parents at a fall tailgate.
Go LSU!



Brotherhood, Bar-B-Que, and Beer at its best!



Members kick off the new school year with a fun brotherhood event.

WHY SIGMA CHI?

LET'S HEAR FROM NEW MEMBERS

"Sigma Chi filled the void of brotherhood I was looking for. Coming from Texas and encountering a new environment was a lot, but Sigma Chi welcomed me to a second home. The brothers within the fraternity all possess the values I am looking for in lifelong friends."

–**Gavin Flores '26**

"I chose Sigma Chi because of the brothers' dedication to the values of the fraternity and their commitment to developing well-rounded men that will better the world."

–**Tommy Mikhael '26**

"Because of the sincerity each brother has in everything they do, from their studies to forming friendships to tailgates on game days."

–**Jordan Phillips '27**

Welcome, New Members

Mason Albert '27
Ali Nabeel Badawi '27
Robbie Blanchard '27
Cager Bloom '27
Aidan Boyle '28
KJ Brothers '27
Austin Brown '27
Carter Brown '27
Cameron Butler '27
Henry Cipollaro '27
Jason Coleman '27

Gunner Curtis '27
Aaron Evans '27
Ethan Fitzkee '27
Gavin Flores '26
Caleb Gifford '27
Evan Gravely '27
Colton Hood '27
Parker Hudson '27
Nathan Husser '26
Matthew Jett '26
Xavier Juarez '27

Michael LeBlanc '27
Walker Lobdell '26
William McDonald '27
Tommy Mikhael '26
Jacob Mire '27
Blake Morella '27
Nicholas Morrison '27
Charles O'Con '27
Crawford Olsen '27
Greg Ortego '27
Trace Panganiban '26

William Parker '27
William Patin '26
Pierson Peebles '26
Jordan Phillips '27
Nicholas Rase '27
Jaeven Ratcliff '27
Oliver Sadler '27
Tommy Shoeck '27
Brodie Scott '26
Hunter Scott '27
Roan Sharpless '27

Ethan Simpson '27
Jacques Stafford '27
Jacob Stetz '26
Ryan Stockbridge '27
Hayes Strawitz '27
Daniel Sudduth '27
Turner Taggart '27
Ty Thomas '27
Benjamin Vining '27

BIG NEWS!

Gamma Iota is thrilled to announce that we were awarded a Peterson Blue Chapter Award for the 2022-23 school year! This is our first award since 1999-2000.



Camden Pfeiffer '24, Grand Consul Bob Wilson, and Carter Kerrigan '25 gather for a photo after accepting the Peterson Blue Chapter Award.



GAMMA IOTA CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI

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TO READ MORE EXCITING UPDATES
FROM THE COLLEGIANS AND
ALUMNI, LOOK INSIDE!

**Send Us Your
Recruitment
Referrals!**

Keep Sigma Chi Growing

Do you know a current or incoming student who might be a good fit for Sigma Chi? Send their contact information and your recommendation to our recruitment chairman, **Tyler Mercil '26**, at (225) 571-4936 or tmercil@lsu.edu. We're always looking to add quality young men to our chapter.

GAMMA IOTA HONORS

PETERSON SIGNIFICANT CHAPTER AWARD

Gamma Iota Chapter is the recipient of the Peterson Significant Chapter Award this year. The Peterson Award is Sigma Chi's highest honor for undergraduate chapters, recognizing those brothers who earn high marks in the areas of financial stability and recruitment, chapter and member reputation, and Ritual comprehension and performance.

KELLER ZIBILICH SCHOLARSHIP

On October 16 at the House of the Southern Woods, Gayle and **Michael Zibilich '13** presented the Keller Zibilich Scholarship to **Zachary Thomas Broussard**. This scholarship is awarded to the most outstanding Gamma Iota freshman in honor of their late son Keller, a Gamma Iota Sig at LSU. Michael and Gayle have created a foundation with emphasis on mental health awareness and suicide prevention.

DO WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT EMAIL?

We hope you enjoy receiving physical mailings throughout the year, but sometimes it's crucial for us to update our alumni as quickly as possible. Help us stay connected by keeping your digital contact information up to date!

From event reminders and save-the-dates to breaking news, Gamma Iota wants to keep all our alumni in the loop through (limited) email updates.

If you aren't getting chapter emails or can't remember if we have your preferred address, please email us at updatemyrecord@penningtonco.com with "ΣΧ LASU Email Update" in the subject line and tell us which email you'd like to use. (Remember to check your spam folders.)

Thank you for helping us stay connected!

Don't worry—your email is safe with us! We do not share your info outside of our organization.