

The Iota Iota Messenger

SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA | EST. 1876

FALL 2023

IOTA IOTA KEEPS GROWING

Recruitment Efforts and Academic Ambitions

Iota Iota Chapter has had a strong start to the academic year. Recruitment Chairman **Billy Vercher '25** did a fantastic job recruiting 63 new members, and the chapter is now allocating time to focus on goals, which include competing for the Peterson, Charles G. Ross, and Greek Excellence Awards and as well as raising our GPA rank among other fraternities.

THE NEW MEMBER EXPERIENCE

Iota Iota has also been working closely with the organization "What Good Looks Like" to create programming designed to ensure a smooth and stress-free transition for freshmen, helping them navigate the "new norm" of college and fraternity life.

WGLL facilitates informative, engaging, and practical educational sessions on topics such as substance abuse, overall wellness, achieving academic and social life balance, and mental and behavioral health strategies. They also assist all chapter members in identifying and accessing university and community resources to promote early intervention, reduce the risk of mental health issues, and provide opportunities to build individual plans for each member.

We can't wait to see what the rest of the academic year will bring after taking a rest during the holiday season!



Executive members receive awards for fundraising part of Sigma Chi's \$3.6 million raised for the Huntsman Cancer Foundation.



In hoc,
Blake Lester '24
Consul
bhlester1@crimson.ua.edu



Pledge brothers gather to support Justin Banks after his baptism.

Meet Joaquin Ferreiro!

Our Pledge Brother from Uruguay



Moving to the U.S. was a personal decision I made in my teenage years. At the time, my mother was living in America and my dad in Uruguay, so I had the option to choose where I lived. Despite having an awesome life back home, I chose to come to America, the land of opportunity.

It was extremely challenging at first, especially speaking a language I was not very proficient in and not having the social connections I had back in Uruguay. I had 20+ offers to play D2 rugby, but they were not appealing to me. I knew I wanted to go to a big school and experience all the things associated with it, including joining a fraternity.

Around this time, I decided to go to Alabama and made rugby more of a hobby. Alabama was the best fit for me because it included all those experiences I wanted. Since coming to America, I have had countless opportunities and many once-in-a-lifetime experiences. It really was one of the best decisions of my life.

Why They Chose Sigma Chi



“After recruitment, it was the only fraternity I saw myself fit. Every active brother I met was very genuine and friendly.” –**Will Badger**



“They have a very positive reputation and large alumni network. I wanted to surround myself with positive role models that could guide me through my college experience.” –**Harrison Lusk**



“Because of the brotherhood. Going to recruitment for other fraternities, I never felt like I could be together with those guys. As soon as I met Sigma Chi, I knew they were close and had a connection that not many other fraternities have. I wanted to be a part of that.” –**Jackson Potter**

Welcome, New Members

Parker Avery | Mountain Brook, Ala.
William Badger | Houston, Texas
Brady Carlin | Spring, Texas
Danny Carse | St. Louis, Mo.
Liam Casey | Brentwood, N.H.
Walker Feenan Chandler | Alamo, Calif.
Jacob Cox | Dothan, Ala.
Mason Crotwell | Brandon, Fla.
Tyrus Daniel | Bridgeport, N.Y.
Robert Dion | Annapolis, Md.
Brady Dodson | Gallatin, Tenn.
William Dodson | Cape Girardeau, Mo.
Dylan Duplanty | Newport Beach, Calif.
Andrew Easton | Ladera Ranch, Calif.
Joaquin Ferreiro | Birmingham, Ala.
Dylan Flores | Cypress, Texas
Si Franke | Cincinnati, Ohio
Nicholas Franklin | Arlington, Va.
Andrew Gains | Murfreesboro, Tenn.
Thomas Gearheart | Chandler, Ariz.
Jackson Graham | Auburn, Ala.
Gaines Harvey | Jolly, Texas
Brant Heintzelman | Paradise Valley, Ariz.
Carson Helgeson | Marietta, Ga.
Marcus Henry | Springfield, Va.
Ben Hills | Florence, Ala.
Jake Homan | Kearney, Neb.
Nick Homan | Kearney, Neb.
Graydon Horn | Odessa, Fla.
Hart James | Mountain Brook, Ala.
Watson Kerth | Naples, Fla.
Wade Kolasinski | Ladera Ranch, Calif.

John Lenich | Evergreen, Colo.
Samuel Lewis | Florence, Ala.
Griffin Loveng | Arlington, Va.
Harrison Lusk | Biloxi, Miss.
Alex Machenheimer | Roswell, Ga.
Preston McCollum | Suffolk, Va.
Andrew McDavid | Fallston, Md.
Grady McGown | Ladera Ranch, Calif.
Andrew McWilliams | Goodlettsville, Tenn.
Joe Mellen | Phoenix, Ariz.
Blake Meszaros | Phoenix, Ariz.
Chase Miller | Irondale, Ala.
Robert Mirasola | Scottsdale, Ariz.
Wil Morgan | Cape Girardeau, Mo.
Luke Moses | Whitefish, Mont.
Liam O'Toole | Atlanta, Ga.
Braydon Peterson | Chandler, Ariz.
Preston Poovala | Austin, Texas
Jackson Potter | Houston, Texas
Andrew Quinn | Springfield, Va.
Christian Rainer | Tuscaloosa, Ala.
Samuel Redelsheimer | Salado, Texas
Ryan Reece | Chester Springs, Pa.
Ben Richards | Metuchen, N.J.
Wade Roberie | Baton Rouge, La.
Andrew Schirripa | Huntington Station, N.Y.
Corban Thedinger | Shenandoah, Texas
Christian Torborg | Alexandria, Va.
Breckin Tipton | St. Louis, Mo.
Williamson Watts | Lynchburg, Va.
Cayden William | Northport, Ala.

Help Us Grow the Brotherhood

Submit Your Recruitment Referrals

Do you know a young man attending The University of Alabama who would be a great fit for Sigma Chi? Be sure to submit a recruitment referral to Recruitment Chairman **Billy Vercher '25** at wdvercher@crimson.ua.edu or (205) 470-3880.

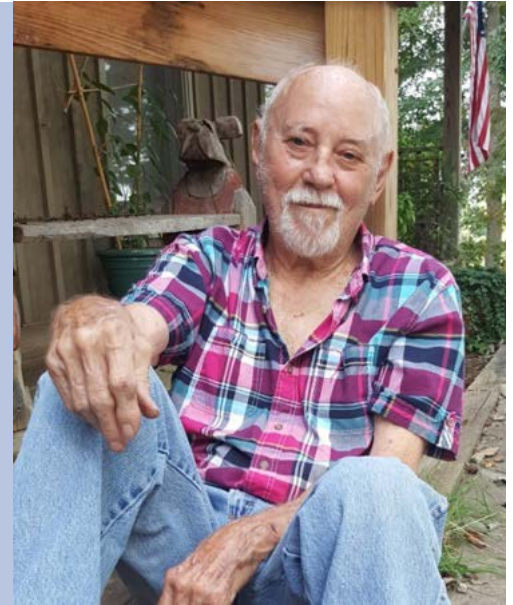
Please include the student's full name, hometown, major, and any legacy connections. Thank you for helping us grow Iota Iota Chapter!

Chapter Eternal

Arthur “Pat” Buchanan Chesnutt Jr. '53 entered Chapter Eternal on June 19, 2023. Pat excelled in academics and extracurriculars, including as head cheerleader for four years and a varsity letterman.

After enlisting in Army ROTC in 1952, Pat served on Wolmido Island, Port of Incheon, attached to the Korean Marines. Pat retired as a lieutenant colonel from the Army Reserves. He later pursued a successful career, rising through the corporate ranks in companies like Rose Marie Reid, Owens Corning Fiberglas, and Knauf Fiberglass. Pat and his wife, Jean, built a family and lived in various locations due to career moves, eventually settling in Tryon in 1976.

Pat began Chesnutt Insulation Associates and became a major figure in the industry. Beyond his career, Pat was an active member of Holy Cross Episcopal Church for 47 years, contributing as an usher, Sunday school teacher, evening group leader, and vestry member. Pat's legacy includes his wife of 64 years, three daughters, grandchildren, great-granddaughter, and a chosen son.



CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Consul
Blake Lester '24
bhlester1@crimson.ua.edu

Recruitment Chairman
Billy Vercher '25
wdvercher@crimson.ua.edu

Pro Consul
Connor Gorman '24

House Manager
Caden Kramer '25

Quaestor
Ryan Border '24

Social Chairman
Chris Kelly '25

Magister
Pierce Hingten '25

Chapter Goals

For the upcoming semester and the end of this current semester, the chapter has allocated large amounts of time, effort, and funding to achieve chapter goals.

A few include competing for the Peterson, Charles G. Ross, and Greek Excellence Awards and to raise the fraternity's GPA.

Of returning brothers as of this semester, 20 have a GPA below 2.5. We want to get that number down as much as possible while setting a realistic goal of getting 5-10 of those brothers above a 2.5. **Landon Eskridge** has been working diligently as our academic chairman to help struggling students, even creating “success plans” for each individual.

Besides these goals, getting the new members initiated has been our executive team's top priority. We are targeting an early December initiation and are very excited to see this happen.

Catch Up with Marl Cummings III '75

Marl is retired in Fairhope, Ala., and enjoys hunting, fishing, gardening, and playing bagpipes. He is a board member of the Constantine Housing Initiative.

Email: marl3@cummingsassoc.com

*What three words come to mind
when you think about Sigma Chi?*

FRIENDSHIP LEADERSHIP SERVICE

*What are your favorite memories
from living at the chapter house
and/or spending time with
Sigma Chi brothers at The
University of Alabama?*

“Band parties after Bama football games, evening meals, chapter meetings, and pledge swaps.”

Do We Have Your Email?

We enjoy sending you physical mailings to stay connected throughout the year, but what about the news that can't wait that long? That's when it's crucial to connect with alumni online.

From event reminders and save-the-dates to breaking news, Iota Iota Chapter wants to keep all our alumni in the loop through (limited) email updates. And you can enjoy the newsletter virtually as well!

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 "SX Alabama Email Update" in the subject line and tell us which email you'd like to use. (Or check your spam folders—you never know!)

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.

The Iota Iota Messenger

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A GOAL-ORIENTED ALUMNUS

Get to Know Wright Waters '73

*Recently, **Wright Waters '73** took some time to discuss his Sigma Chi experience and how it prepared him for life after college. Here's a bit about Wright and how Iota Iota Chapter influenced his personal and professional development.*

What is your current occupation?

Retired reform conference commissioner. Some days I wake up in the morning and enjoy retirement, and others I make a to-do list and get half of it done. The past two years have been pretty tough for me; I had heart surgery around two years ago, and I've been facing complications regarding that. Nowadays, I don't work for the money but more so just for friends who need some advice.

What did Sigma Chi do for you?

The strength of our fraternity is built on values... The sooner the newer generations realize that and understand the obligations, it sure will solve a lot of problems. Another note I will add is that our pledgship was structured on teaching pledges leadership values and how to grow as a person. There

was great order and structure; everyone would take problems on together. If one pledge brother was struggling with classes, then a different brother would be right there to help him out. Just as we learned leadership skills, we also learned an awful lot about social interactions and just how far good interactions can take you.

What is one piece of advice that you would give to a young, driven college student?

I would say understanding the difference between goals and objectives. Goals are set in the long term and take time to achieve, whereas objectives can be any day-to-day activity that might get you to your goal. Too many people set goals but then don't set objectives along the way on how to prepare yourself.