

The Iota Iota Messenger

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

SPRING 2017

Sigma Chi Celebrates 140 Years at UA, Launches \$250,000 Iota Iota Bell Chapter Challenge Endowment Campaign

A cocktail reception and banquet were held at the chapter house on March 25 to celebrate the 140th anniversary of the Iota Iota Chapter of Sigma Chi at the University of Alabama. During the anniversary celebration, we also had the pleasure of announcing the Iota Iota Bell Chapter Challenge endowment campaign, which will help our undergraduate brothers reach new heights and continue Iota Iota's reign of excellence into the future.

What Is the Bell Chapter Challenge?

Iota Iota's endowment campaign stems from Sigma Chi Foundation's **Thomas Cowan Bell Chapter Challenge**, which provides enhanced values-based leadership and scholarship benefits for undergraduate brothers. When compared to non-Bell undergraduate chapters*, Bell recipients *averaged* a higher overall cumulative GPA, as well as 58% more brothers on the Dean's List, 63% more brothers active in campus organizations, 84% more brothers within academic honor societies, 400 more hours of community service per year, and \$7,400 more raised per chapter for philanthropy.

The goals of the Iota Iota Bell Chapter Challenge include:

- Raise \$250,000 to establish an **Endowed Iota Iota Bell Chapter Fund** at the Sigma Chi Foundation through tax-deductible charitable gifts.
- Establish a foundation of support for current and future generations of Iota Iota Chapter Sigma Chis.

- Help the Iota Iota Chapter be a leader in the fraternity with this initiative. If endowed, the Iota Iota Chapter will be the...
 - First chapter in the state of Alabama to receive this designation.
 - Second chapter in the SEC to attain these benefits.
 - Twelfth chapter in the Sigma Chi Fraternity to have a Bell Chapter Endowment (currently 242 active chapters).

The annual benefits for a Bell Chapter include:

- Three additional Balfour Leadership Training Workshop slots (eight total attendees free of charge)
- ADDITIONAL \$250 travel stipend to Balfour LTW
- One designated Horizons slot for qualified applicant
- Two \$1,000 scholarships for qualified applicants
- Crossroads alcohol and drug education program
- Donor recognition plaque for display in the chapter house
- Invitation to an exclusive Bell Chapter dinner at Balfour LTW

We hope you will join us in supporting this exciting endeavor. For an easier, faster way to donate to the Iota Iota Bell Chapter Challenge endowment campaign, go to <http://microsites.sigmachi.org/grand-central.php?form=Iota-Iota> to make your gift online.

**All data based on the 2016 Sigma Chi International Fraternity Annual Report (Peterson accreditation data) filed by undergraduate chapters.*



Consul Jordan Levy '17 delivers closing remarks at Iota Iota's 140th anniversary celebration.

Be part of our
undergraduates'
continued success
by donating to the
Iota Iota Bell
Chapter Challenge
today!

SHARING STORIES, VALUES, AND MEMORIES

AN INSIDE LOOK AT THE ASCIK FAMILY LEGACY

Very few people can say they are a triple legacy of their fraternity, but for brothers **Mark Ascik '79**, **Steve Ascik '83**, and Mark's son, **David Ascik '12**, this is a reality that the Ascik family takes great pride in. *Why did you decide to join Sigma Chi* can be a difficult question, but the answer comes naturally for Mark, Steve, and David: the quality membership. In fact, the Ascik family attributes much of who they are today to their Sigma Chi experience at the University of Alabama. They developed inseparable bonds with fraternity brothers, shared countless laughs, and created memories that will last a lifetime. In turn, the Ascik family has given back to Iota Iota Chapter to ensure future generations are afforded the same life-changing, unique experiences they had.

When reflecting on their days in Iota Iota, Mark and Steve share one of their most cherished moments as legacies of the chapter—initiation. “The days I pinned the white cross on Steve and David are still some of the proudest days of my life. They both were leaders of the fraternity, held many offices, and made the chapter a better place,” Mark says. Steve also gained a sense of pride from this event and says, “Legacies are special. David was pinned with the badge that his father, Mark, gave to me for initiation in 1979. I’ve also attended initiation ceremonies for some of my Sig friends and it’s a moving experience.”

David values the special bond he shares with Mark and Steve, and he is thankful for the opportunities Iota Iota provided him as an undergraduate, particularly with leadership. “I was consul leading up to and during construction of the house in 2011-12. I saw firsthand the impact a new house was having on the quality of other fraternities on campus, and I knew we had to upgrade or we would get left behind,” David says. “The amount of success *The Legacy Campaign* gained really opened my eyes to how critical alumni support and leadership is to the future of Iota Iota.”

Today, the chapter enjoys a newly renovated chapter house thanks to the generous contributions of hundreds of alumni, including the Ascik family. Because of their rewarding experiences in Iota Iota, supporting the chapter’s campaign efforts, as well as David’s leadership in



Steve Ascik '83, Mark Ascik '79, Father Steve Bates '79, and David Ascik '12.

the fraternity, was second nature to Mark and Steve. “The new house will help our chapter continue leading on campus and will help future brothers continue our proud tradition. I look forward to pinning my grandson one day. David had a real impact on rebuilding the chapter and the new house. That makes me proud,” Mark says. Steve also has high hopes for the future of Iota Iota and says, “Sigma Chi has been an important part of my life. I hope it continues to have a positive influence on young men at Alabama.”

*Mark retired recently and enjoys life in Ormond Beach, Florida. Before retiring, he was president of an optical company that sold eye-wear in 69 countries around the world. One of Mark's favorite highlights from his professional career was taking a company from \$1 million in sales to \$300 million in sales, with the help of Steve and **Don Grindle '79**. In his spare time, you'll likely find Mark playing golf or helping his other son, Mark Jr., start a new business. Mark and his wife, Missy, also have a daughter, Caroline. E-mail: markascik1@gmail.com*

Steve is enjoying a second career as the owner of a new Ace Hardware store in Spanish Fort, Alabama. He has had a successful career in sales, marketing, and general management in the consumer products industry. Steve says, “I was fortunate to have the opportunity to contribute in all phases of our business. I loved the challenge of learning new aspects and improving.” Steve and his wife, Alisa, have a daughter, Carlyle, who is a freshman at UA and a member of Alpha Chi Omega, and live in Fairhope, Alabama. E-mail: steve.ascik@gmail.com

As a resident of Columbia, South Carolina, David makes it a priority to maintain his connection to UA and Iota Iota Chapter. He keeps up with many of his fraternity brothers, mostly at their weddings and bachelor parties. Many of the brothers, including David, are in a fantasy football league together and they try to get together for at least one home football game each year. “I hope the new chapter house helps maintain Iota Iota's standing as one of the premier fraternities on campus for many years to come,” David says. E-mail: daascik@gmail.com

Iota Iota Honors Significant Sig Jack Sammons '77

On March 24, the Iota Iota Chapter hosted a reception to honor our newest Significant Sig, Brother **Jack Sammons '77**. Jack was initiated in the spring of 1974. He went on to have a sterling career in business and public service, and served many years on the Memphis City Council as chairman.

When he was an undergraduate member in Iota Iota Chapter, Jack recalls feeling inspired by those who received the Significant Sig Award and looked up to them as “superheroes.” Jack says, “When I learned that I had received this prestigious honor and would become one of the ‘superheroes’ I looked up to as an undergraduate, I felt very humbled and overwhelmed. Sigma Chi means a great deal to me and I am honored to receive such recognition.”

Jack served as Chairman of the Board of the Memphis International Airport Authority, one of the country’s largest and busiest passenger and cargo airports. Today, he is the General Chairman of the FedEx St. Jude Golf Classic held annually in Memphis. Jack has also owned and operated

a number of businesses in a variety of areas, including manufacturing, insurance, commodities trading, and local restaurants. His professional career has also afforded him the opportunity to travel the world. Jack is a true entrepreneur in Memphis and our chapter takes great pride in his accomplishments.

Jack, who received the nickname “Sonny” in college, tells stories better than any brother alive. He kept the brothers and alumni laughing for a half-hour, and believe me, nobody left. Jack is a wonderful representative of the chapter and fraternity. In a serious moment, Jack said when he evaluated employees, he judged them by the standard of Sigma Chi, the Jordan Standard.

A large crowd of Jack’s alumni friends came to meet and share in his honor of Significant Sig. “At the award ceremony, I had dinner with some brothers who I hadn’t seen in decades. It has been refreshing to renew my bonds with Sigma Chi and an uplifting experience to relive those lifetime friendships,” he says.



Sigma Chi Brother Jack Sammons '77 receives the Significant Sig award for his work in the Memphis community.



Brothers celebrate the inaugural Derby Dash 5K with SGA President Jared Hunter.



Old Jason's Hunter Ross '17 and John Ferretti '17 initiate two new Sigma Chis, Will Bouton '17 and Jordan Levy '17, into Jason's Senior Men's Honorary Society. Jason's selects 40 of the university's top rising senior men every spring into their order.

Chapter Raises More Than \$40,000 Through Derby Days, Welcomes 54 New Members

We have had an exciting semester this spring, as we celebrated the 140th anniversary of the chapter, held our first Derby Dash fundraising 5K, and participated in intramural sports. The brothers have also been involved in community service and Greek week activities with Pi Beta Phi sorority.

The chapter held its first Derby Dash fundraising 5K to assist our efforts in raising money for Derby Days. The turnout for our first event was incredible, as we raised \$12,000 to benefit Children’s Hospital of Alabama. Iota Iota also completed an incredibly successful Derby Days. The chapter raised more than \$40,000 for Children’s Hospital of Alabama and \$1,000 for the Huntsman Cancer Institute. The women of Delta Gamma also received a \$3,000 donation to their philanthropy, Service for Sight, for winning Derby Days.

(Continued on page 4)



Tommy Marrollo '18, Charlie Martin '18, Matt Comeaux '18, Kevin Jervis '18, Christopher Dufour '19, and Charlie Gordon '18.

Chapter Raises More Than \$40,000

(Continued from page 3)

The brothers in the chapter have been very involved academically and in extracurricular activities. Our brothers have been initiated into Order of Omega, Jason's Society, SGA Senate, IFC Executive Committee, Order of Alpha, and many other organizations around campus.

Outside of the classroom, our chapter has participated in canned food drives and fundraisers for the Wounded Warrior Project with other fraternities. Brothers have also been volunteering with Miracle League on the weekends by helping those with special needs play baseball.

We have given 54 bids to some of the brightest men in the incoming class. If you receive any recruitment recommendations over the summer, please direct them to **Adam Higginbotham '19** at ajhigginbotham@crimson.ua.edu.

Thank you for your support. We look forward to continuing our chapter's growing success into the fall.



In hoc,
Jordan Levy '17
Consul
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jzlevy@crimson.ua.edu



Brothers and their parents celebrate Parent's Weekend 2017 in downtown Tuscaloosa.

The Iota Iota Messenger

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ATTENTION: *This newsletter is intended for alumni and parents. If your son is still attending The University of Alabama, he will receive a copy at the chapter house. If he has graduated, please send us his permanent address. Thank you.*

Recruitment Recommendations

Iota Iota is always looking for new members to join our fraternity. We count on our alumni to make recommendations for those who they think would uphold our Sigma Chi ideals. If you know of a potential new member, please mail this form to Sigma Chi, P.O. Box 1880, Tuscaloosa, AL 35403.

Prospect's Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Parent(s): _____

High school attended: _____

Does prospect have a ΣX relative? _____

Reference submitted by: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____