

The Iota Iota Messenger

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

SPRING 2020

CELEBRATING THE BROTHERHOOD

Iota Iota Chapter Hosts First Ever Sigma Chi Gala



On Saturday, February 29, Iota Iota Chapter hosted its first ever Sigma Chi Gala to celebrate our chapter's history, learn about the active members, and hear the plans for our future. In attendance were over 250 undergraduates, alumni, and guests, including family and friends alike.

Also in attendance was former 70th Grand Consul **Tommy Geddings, South Carolina '85**, who gave us a great State of the General Fraternity address. **Steve Pracht, Penn State '76**, from the Sigma Chi Foundation gave us an update on the fundraising efforts supported by Sigma Chi, in particular the participation of Iota Iota in the Bell Chapter Challenge. We had the honor of announcing the latest Iota Iota brother to be named a Significant Sig! Congratulations to **Fess St. John '79**, who is the chancellor of the University of Alabama System and the third Iota Iota Sig to be named Significant Sig in the past three years!

Those in attendance enjoyed a fantastic meal of filet mignon, danced the night away to long-loved Iota Iota Favorite Chevy Six, and enjoyed the history, brotherhood, and comradery of fellow Sigma Chis ranging in age from recent initiates to some who have been brothers for over 50 years.

Check out some pictures from the event by visiting ardenphotography.passgallery.com/-sig-machi2020/store. Tentative plans are being made to hold this event every two years, and we are open to suggestions on how to make future events even more successful than the first.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the next gala.

In hoc,
Will Yeldell '86
Iota Iota House Corporation President
wyeldell@yahoo.com



SIGMA CHI SHINING MOMENTS

Bill Blythe '88 Credits Iota Iota for Successful Career, Personal Growth

Between his undergraduate days at the University of Alabama and nine years of postgraduate work, the lessons **Bill Blythe '88** learned to prepare him for a stellar medical career were many. But when Bill looks back on his overall college experience, his scholastic success isn't what first comes to mind. Bill's best college memories were made at Iota Iota.

"That's where all my friends were. Sigma Chi taught me to grow up and how to make the transition from boy to man," Bill said. "When I think of college, I think of the Sigma Chi house and all my friends, not of the school and academics."

Bill was focused foremost on doing well academically when he arrived at UA, so he decided to hold off on joining a fraternity until the spring semester of his freshman year. After Bill realized the men of Sigma Chi shared his ideals, it didn't take long for him to become involved in the fraternity. He served as scholarship chairman, assistant social chairman, Derby chairman, and consul. Bill was also a finalist for the International Balfour Award and UA's 1988 valedictorian.

"Iota Iota was my home and family for four of the most important and formative years of my life," Bill said. "I was lucky to find a home there and to make the connections and friendships that helped me thrive through school and my career."

Once Bill completed his residency at the University of North Carolina Hospitals in 1997, he moved to Auburn, Alabama, and joined East Alabama Ear, Nose, and Throat, P.C. He's practiced there ever since.

"I have held every medical staff leadership position over the past 22 years," Bill said. "I have served as a committee member on the Board of Medical Examiners since 2005 and am currently on the Lee County Board of Health. I'm active in the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, where I'm currently on the Board of Directors."



*Bill Blythe '88 with wife Linda,
daughter Kelsey, and son Coley.*

It was a challenge for Bill to stay in touch with his brothers after he graduated from UA, but thanks to social media, he's reconnected with many of them in recent years. The stories of the adventures with brothers in his class, football games, parties, and many other Iota Iota functions are ones that Bill will always treasure.

"I had so many brothers who were important in my life during the four years I was at the University of Alabama," Bill said. "I would have never succeeded as I did without them."

Bill and his wife, Linda, have two children. Their daughter, Kelsey, is a 2015 UA graduate, so Bill often visited the Iota Iota chapter house whenever he traveled to Tuscaloosa to see her or attend a Crimson Tide football game. Bill and Linda's son, Coley, is wrapping up his freshman year at Auburn, where he plays lacrosse.

Whether it's raising his bird dogs, quail hunting, working on his timber and farmland, fishing, riding his motorcycles and bicycles, or exercising, Bill enjoys an active lifestyle. Bill is thankful that Sigma Chi molded him into the man he is today.

You can connect with Bill at
wblythe@me.com.



CHAPTER OFFICERS

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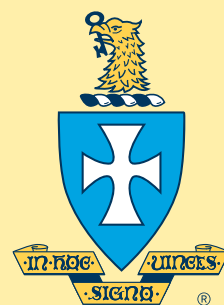
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Hunter Robinson '23

Chapter Editor
Jacob Limbocker '23





Brothers Peter William '19 and John Henry Woods '22 spent their winter break in Israel.



Congratulations to our intramural flag football team for winning the league championship!

Leading the Way

Iota Iota Chapter Initiates 56 New Members, Top 10 in Grades

The men of the Iota Iota Chapter of Sigma Chi experienced great success during the 2019 fall semester. As we move into the spring semester, we are constantly looking for ways to better the chapter. We hope that by the end of this school year we will improve our standing in grades, campus involvement, alumni relations, and philanthropic efforts.

Our chapter is proud to announce that we currently have 170 active members after a successful recruitment in the fall welcoming 56 new initiates. Many of these brothers are involved in a multitude of campus organizations, including the Interfraternity Council, SGA Senate, Greek Ambassadors, Culverhouse Investment Management Group, Greek Programming Board, and many others participating in various honors societies on campus. We would also like to congratulate our brother, Alex Murphy '21, for becoming the Interfraternity Council president for the 2020 school year.

In the fall, we finished sixth in grades among the 32 fraternities on campus. Iota Iota held an overall chapter GPA of 3.21, surpassing the undergraduate men's GPA of a 3.02. We hope to move into the top three for the spring semester.

I am very proud to report that we donated \$21,500 to the Huntsman Cancer Institute from our spring 2019 Derby Days. Despite our beneficial partnership with the institute, we have decided to switch our main philanthropy back to Children's of Alabama. We believe that by doing so we will positively impact the local community more effectively. While we look to increase our donations, we would like to expand our campus philanthropy involvement in other fraternity and sorority events as well.

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, our annual week-long Derby Days and all other chapter operations are suspended for the rest of the semester. The University of Alabama has asked all fraternities and sororities to cancel their remaining events, and we will continue to follow the rules that the University gives to us. We hope that everyone stays safe and healthy during this global pandemic.

On February 15, we had the pleasure of hosting the Golden Era Sig's alumni reunion. This event was a great bonding experience for active brothers and alumni. Thank you to all the alumni that organized and coordinated the event. Along with the alumni reunion, we also had the pleasure of attending the Iota Iota Chapter of Sigma Chi Gala on February 29. We had over 50 brothers in attendance with many alumni, family, and distinguished guests from Sigma Chi's national headquarters as well. The proceeds of the event supported the Thomas Cowan Bell Endowment to provide essential resources to support member development.

We believe that we are a leading fraternity among campus and want to prove that Iota Iota is among the best chapters of Sigma Chi. We thank all of you for your support, and we look forward to continuing our chapter's success next fall.



In Hoc,
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The Iota Iota Messenger



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Sigma Chi –
University of Alabama



Instagram
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2020 CRIMSON TIDE FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

September 5
USC*

October 24
At Tennessee

September 12
Georgia State*

November 7
At LSU

September 19
Georgia*

November 14
TN-Martin*

September 26
Kent State*

November 21
Texas A&M*

October 3
At Ole Miss

November 28
Auburn*

October 10
At Arkansas

December 5
SEC Championship

October 17
Mississippi State*

*Home Game