

# The Iota Iota Messenger

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

FALL 2026

## *An Everlasting Brotherhood*

### REACH OUT TO A BROTHER TODAY!

There are so many educational periods in our lives that only last for such a brief time: middle school (thank goodness), high school, college and, for some, post-graduate school. What does not have to come to an end after four short years, however, is our brotherhood in Sigma Chi.

**I want to challenge each of you to read this newsletter front to back, and when you are finished, reach out to one brother, no matter how long it has been, and let them know how they have made a difference in your life. This may not be a challenge for some; if that is the case, then your challenge is to reach out to one brother that you have not connected with for more than a year by sending a quick text, email, or message through social media.**

Maybe you have a listening ear for a brother that is struggling and needs help being heard; maybe your positive mindset is just what a brother needs as he navigates a new career; or maybe you need reconnection for your own self-care.

*Wherever you are in life, you are a Sigma Chi with gifts to be shared. Today is the day to share your gifts with your brothers.*

## Reflecting on an Exceptional Year

### Iota Iota's Achievements

Iota Iota Chapter marked 150 years at the Capstone this year and backed the milestone with one of the strongest terms in recent chapter history.

Academically, Iota Iota's 181 undergraduate brothers posted a 3.29 term GPA, finishing above the all-men's average of 3.26 and the all-fraternity average of 3.27. The chapter's cumulative GPA of 3.36 likewise outpaced fraternity men campus-wide at 3.30. Twenty-seven brothers earned a perfect 4.0 for the term and 71 finished at 3.5 or above.

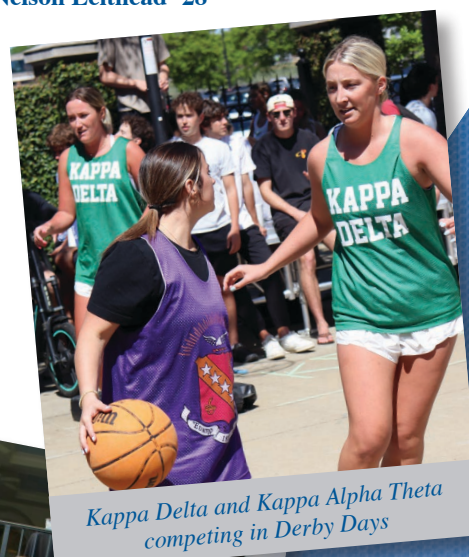
Philanthropy was just as strong. Iota Iota's 68th annual Derby Days drew 17 sororities into a week of point-based competition and raised more than \$40,000 for the Huntsman Cancer Institute, a chapter record. The total placed Iota Iota in Sigma Chi's \$20K Club, one of only 40 chapters internationally to clear \$20,000 for Huntsman during the fundraising year, and contributed to the fraternity's \$31 million commitment to the Huntsman Cancer Institute announced in June 2025. Philanthropy Chairman **Nelson Leithead '28** led the effort.

Brothers also took on roles across campus. Chapter Consul **Sam Redelsheimer '27** was inducted into the 113th class of the Jasons Men's Senior Honorary, a premier honor society at the Capstone founded in 1914 that selects only 40 men each spring. He joins former Consul **Connor Hux '26** and former Pro Consul **Eric Nielson '26** as Jasons.

Magister **Jack Blitch '28** attended KTLW in late June, and Recruitment Chairman **Braden Dondanville '28** has recruited a stellar new member class; we are excited to lead them through pledgship to initiation.

On the social calendar, the chapter welcomed families to campus for Parent's Weekend in April. In August, **Walker Chandler '27**, **Tyrus Kelly '27**, **Jackson Graham '27**, and **Shep Thompson '27** represented Sigma Chi at the IFC Invitational.

In hoc,  
**Nathan Pini '29**  
Chapter Editor



*Kappa Delta and Kappa Alpha Theta competing in Derby Days*



*Jason's Week with Consul Sam Redelsheimer '27, Eric Nielson '26, and Connor Hux '26.*

## HOUSE CORPORATION UPDATE

## HOME IMPROVEMENTS &amp; 150TH CELEBRATION

*Spring semesters are always “calm” after the fall football “storm,” and spring 2026 was no different. Plans were made for the new pledge class, new officers found their footing, and maintenance planning began for us to take advantage of summer break.*

## AS OF PRINTING, SUMMER PROJECTS AROUND THE HOUSE INCLUDE:

- Upgrade surveillance/security systems from Windows 7 to Windows 11
- Implement landscape revitalization at east-facing side of property
- Install louvered window blinds throughout first floor
- Purchase furniture for second-floor landing area
- Purchase area rug for foyer and study areas
- Paint second- and third-floor residential bathrooms, install wall storage units
- Install two washing machines in second-floor laundry room
- Purchase two portable bars for special event use
- Refurbish concrete flooring, paint interior walls, upgrade music equipment and special event lighting in band room
- Add beverage station and additional small appliance equipment in the break room

As previously mentioned, the 150th celebration of Iota Iota originally scheduled for last spring has now moved to spring 2027. As plans become clearer, we will share those details with the entire chapter for planning. I hope to see as many people as possible in Birmingham next spring.

In hoc,  
**Will Yeldell '86**  
IIHC President  
wyeldell@me.com

## HELP US FIND WHO COMES NEXT



*The future of Sigma Chi at Bama begins with the men we invite to join our brotherhood.*

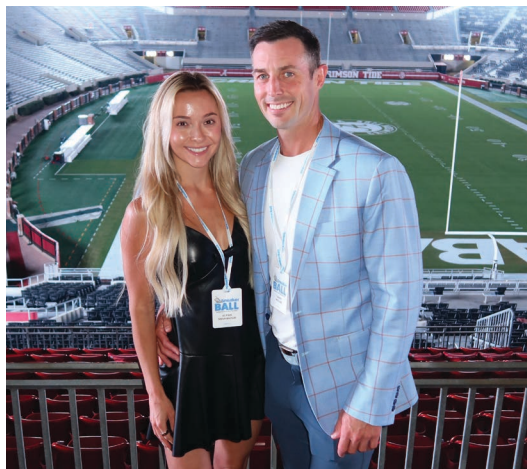
Do you know a young man who would be a perfect addition to Iota Iota? Send his info to **Harrison Lusk '27** at [hslusk1@crimson.ua.edu](mailto:hslusk1@crimson.ua.edu) so we can reach out, start a conversation, and help him discover the opportunities waiting in our chapter.



*Promotional material for the IFC Invitational.*

# Friendship *AND* Leadership

CATCH UP WITH GRANT MCCABE '09



For **Grant McCabe '09**, Sigma Chi has been a source of lasting friendships, leadership lessons, and meaningful connections that have shaped his personal life and career. Read on to learn more about his journey.

## What made Sigma Chi the right fraternity for you?

Sigma Chi stood out because of the values it's built on (friendship, justice, and learning). It wasn't just about social events; it was about finding a group of friends who I meshed with and shared similar values.

## How would you describe the impact Iota Iota Chapter has had on your life?

Sigma Chi gave me lifelong friends who I constantly stay in touch with and who I know will be there for the rest of my life. The bonds formed aren't the kind that fade after graduation; they only get stronger over time.

## What are a couple of your favorite Sigma Chi memories?

Some of my favorite memories are the road trips we took together, including spring break, away football games, and spontaneous beach and golf weekends. There's something about piling in with your buddies and just going that creates memories you never forget.

## How did Sigma Chi help prepare you for your career?

Sigma Chi taught me leadership in a real, hands-on way. Managing people, navigating different personalities, and taking ownership of outcomes are just a few skills I learned that have helped me professionally.

## What has your experience been like as a co-owner of Rounders?

Owning Rounders has been one of the most rewarding opportunities of my life. It opened the door to friendships and partnerships with several other businesses that I never could have anticipated.

Beyond Rounders, I've been fortunate to be involved in several ventures. In the telecom industry, my partner in Rounders, Cory White, and I built and sold Whitesky Communications in 2020, and we're now back in that space under a new name, Latigo. I've also been involved in real estate development and rental investments nationwide, among several other ventures, all of which lead back to the relationships I made from owning Rounders. Each one has come through relationships built along the way, which really speaks to the power of surrounding yourself with the right people.

## What are some career highlights?

Building and selling a telecom business has been one of my proudest professional accomplishments. On top of that, I've opened and now operate a total of three bars and restaurants, which has been an incredible journey.

## Tell us about your family.

It's been a big year for our family! I married my wife, Alexis, in February, and we are expecting our first child—a baby boy—in December. We are incredibly excited for this next chapter of our lives.

Family is a huge part of what makes Tuscaloosa home. My mom and dad, my sister and brother-in-law, and my three nieces and nephews all live here, allowing us to spend a lot of time together and be part of each other's daily lives. We're also hopeful that my brother, his wife, and my niece will make the move to Tuscaloosa in the next few years, making our family even closer. We feel incredibly fortunate to be building our future surrounded by the people who mean the most to us.

## What are some of your favorite hobbies?

Outside of work, I enjoy golfing, vacationing with friends and family, and working out. They each give me a way to recharge and stay balanced.

You can connect with Grant at [grant@latigo.net](mailto:grant@latigo.net).

Stay  
Connected  
with  
Iota Iota!

Do you know  
what options are  
available to you  
on our website?

The alumni website is full of valuable resources—check it out for yourself!



### VIEW PAST NEWSLETTERS.

Visit the "Newsletter" page.



### UPDATE BROTHERS ABOUT YOUR LIFE.

Use the "Submit your Alumni News" tab (under the "Alumni" tab).

Did you recently get married or celebrate the arrival of a new child or grandchild? Do you have any children or grandchildren heading to Bama? Don't be shy, we want to know what you are up to! Your updates could appear in a future edition of The Iota Iota Messenger.



### HELP US LOCATE "LOST" BROTHERS.

Under the "Alumni" tab, click on "Have You Seen These Brothers?"

If you have contact information for anyone on the list, let us know!



Everything you need is right at your fingertips! Be sure to scan the QR code and visit [bamasig.org](http://bamasig.org) and stay connected today.

## *What's Inside?*

- ✓ Chapter achievements
- ✓ Summer house projects
- ✓ A feature on Grant McCabe '09



*Brothers and guests gather for a group photo during Parent's Weekend 2026.*

## The Iota Iota Messenger

Iota Iota Corporation  
P.O. Box 3184  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35403

*Address Service Requested*

PRSRT-STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
KANSAS CITY, MO  
PERMIT NO. 5264

## We Want Content from Our Alumni Community

*Do you have news,  
memories, or  
photos to share?*



*Have you recently  
gathered with your  
Iota Iota Brothers?*

*We'd love to  
hear from you!*



## HELP US FOLLOW HIS **ADVENTURE**

From our Iota Iota beginnings, every brother has embarked on a journey worth following. Do you know a fellow alumnus whose adventure inspires you? Send his name to [dbettenhausen@penningtonco.com](mailto:dbettenhausen@penningtonco.com) with "SX Alabama Spotlight Suggestion" in the subject line and, together, we'll celebrate the path he's taken!

Email [dbettenhausen@penningtonco.com](mailto:dbettenhausen@penningtonco.com)  
with "SX Alabama Alumni Updates"  
in the subject line.