



GAMMA THETA TIMES

SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA



Plans to Rebuild Gamma Theta Chapter House Underway *More Than \$1.6 Million Committed*

When we look back at our own Gamma Theta experiences, we're reminded how the friendships, leadership, and service—even decades ago—helped shape who we are today. Sigma Chi and our brothers in Gamma Theta provided a diverse group of men who instilled and reinforced values as we navigated our collegiate years and who pushed us to pursue the best versions of ourselves. Those of us who enjoyed the brotherhood and camaraderie of Sigma Chi will forever owe a debt of gratitude to the fraternity for that unique experience.

While we each know the quality of our membership, our chapter house must reflect the strength of Gamma Theta to keep our competitive edge. Returning to campus and evaluating the needs of Gamma Theta, you'll agree it is time we replaced our chapter house. Teaming up with nationally renowned firm Treanor HL Architects, the Gamma Theta

alumni leadership has worked diligently over the last four years to ensure the new chapter house has a timeless elegance while providing the necessary upgrades for today's students. Our members are at the forefront of our minds with safety, academics, and recruitment being key focuses. In addition, the new house will incorporate an alumni room to honor Gamma Theta members' achievements, accomplishments and military service. Such a space will be welcoming during reunions and inviting for friends, family and associates during your return trips home to the UF campus.

Our leadership is ready to take on this vital project, but we cannot do it without you. Early commitments from 88 alumni have already exceeded \$1.6 million. This is an impressive start, and now we need your assistance to exceed our campaign goal of \$3 million. With your help, this plan can be realized for Gamma Theta's 100th anniversary celebration in 2024.

In the coming weeks, you will receive additional information detailing the project, the campaign, and ways in which you can help. This is a time to reflect on your Sigma Chi experience. Remember the impact this brotherhood made on you and imagine how this chapter will affect future brothers.

We will be honored to have you join our growing list of loyal supporters who are providing for future generations as previous brothers did for us. Thank you for your loyalty, consideration, and support of Gamma Theta!

In Hoc,
George Stuart '68
Campaign Co-Chairman
george.stuart@att.net | (407) 716-4215

Jim Springer '93
Campaign Co-Chairman
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Keeping Sig Significant

Bill Olinger '64 Strengthens Personal Relationships with Sigma Chi Bonds

William “Bill” Olinger II '64 was always aware of Sigma Chi due to his father, **Don Olinger, University of Cincinnati '32**, being a member and his admiration of the fraternity. After being invited to participate in Derby Days when he was a senior in high school, Bill became certain that it was the place for him. “I had the decorated derby from that night in my closet for the next 50 years.”

Bill was also close friends with **Dr. J. Wayne Reitz, Colorado State University '30**, who was the fifth UF president and a Significant Sig who was actively involved with the Gamma Theta House Corporation. “He was a friend, mentor, and someone I looked up to.” Following Dr. Reitz’s lead, Bill served as consul as an active and was nominated for the Balfour Cup in 1964.

In addition to being inspired by the older Sigs in his life, Bill pledged Sigma Chi with some of his friends: **Walter “Butch” Williams '64, John W. Kirkpatrick III '64, Bill Hartman '65,** and **Frank Green III '64**. As consul at the time, **Chic Holden '62** initiated the group and went on to become Bill’s lifelong corporate and personal attorney. John and Frank have served on the house corporation alongside Bill, who is currently president, since 1970. Staying involved with the chapter is a fulfilling endeavor and helps to keep alumni connected across generations. Bill shared, “Serving on the board with these gentlemen for over 50 years has made them some of my closest friends.”

In the same way that Bill first noticed Sigma Chi through his father’s involvement, Bill’s two sons have followed suit. “Because of my active involvement with the fraternity, both of my sons pledged with Sigma Chi—my oldest, **Will Olinger III, Wake Forest University '91,** and youngest, **Charles Olinger, Georgia Southern University '94**. With them having gone through the ΣΧ pledgeship and initiation themselves, it brought us even closer. It’s an extra bond that we will share through our lives.”



Every one of these Sigma Chi connections has kept Bill closely involved with the fraternity, but he recognizes that isn’t the case for every Gamma Theta alumnus. “Overall, we alumni have given very little back to the fraternity at this point, but this capital campaign is now our opportunity to give to something that has meant so much to each of us through the years.” He shares that the current chapter has 114 brothers and 48 pledge brothers who are trying to make a 57-year-old house function as best as it can, but the older house can’t be renovated to current code requirements due to “having been built with prestressed concrete walls; the windows, doors, and hallways are all too narrow. Plus, we would have to install two elevators.”

Bill’s constant drive to make the most of his extracurriculars, academics, career, and family are what makes him a top-tier member of his community and the fraternity. He admits that Gamma Theta Chapter “hasn’t always done a great job of keeping in touch with the alumni, but they are making a better effort to do so going forward. It will certainly enrich the lives of the alumni who make an effort to stay in touch with other alumni and active brothers.” His many connections to Sigma Chi, even before he pledged in 1961, are proof that he knows what a rich alumni network can provide, and he’s leading the charge for *The Campaign for Gamma Theta* by becoming a William Lewis Lockwood Society level donor.

Outside of Sigma Chi, Bill remains an active force in his community and serves in several organizations, including March of Dimes, Gator City Kiwanis Club, YMCA, and Florida Museum of History. Bill and his wife, Sandra, have been married for 55 years, and they enjoy spending time with their sons and three granddaughters.

You can connect with Bill at bill@kossolinger.com.

ALUMNI NEWS

Bruce Loudon '60 shares that his grandson, **Sam**, is a fourth generation Sigma Chi at the University of Connecticut. Bruce is a matrimonial lawyer and has enjoyed a national reputation for 40 years as both an effective advocate and a pioneer in a constructive approach to divorce. Since 1977, he has had the highest rating a lawyer can have in the Martindale-Hubbell directory and has been listed in national publications among the top divorce lawyers in the country. He and his wife, Molly, live in West Hartford, Conn. Email: bruce@lkmfamilylaw.com

Jack W. Crannel '69 and his wife live in Palm Coast, Fla., and are celebrating over 40 years of marriage. They have two children. Jack spent 32 years in the automobile business and retired in 2007. He loves being retired and rides his Harley Wide Glide motorcycle five times a week. Email: jack.crannel@yahoo.com

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EXTENDING THE LEGACY OF GAMMA THETA TOGETHER

Will You Leave Your Mark on Gamma Theta?

The following brothers and friends have banded together to show their appreciation of Gamma Theta by supporting the *Celebrating 100 Years, Building for 100 More* campaign at 8 Fraternity Row. Together, they have raised more than \$1.6 toward our \$3 million campaign goal. Their efforts have already made a tremendous difference in the future of Gamma Theta at the University of Florida.

Each of us played a part in the history of Gamma Theta, and we would like to see each brother be recognized through the campaign. Every donor who contributes \$2,500 or more will have their name placed on a prominently displayed plaque in the chapter house. Room naming opportunities start at \$25,000. If you feel an error has been made in recording your gift, we sincerely apologize. Please contact our campaign coordinator at (785) 843-1661 with any corrections.

Benjamin Piatt Runkle Society (\$250,000 and above)

David L. Echols '66
William F. Shewey '67
George L. Stuart Jr. '68
David L. Holbrook '70
The Todd Family
Walter B. Todd '70
Thomas N. Todd '73
Michael T. Todd '01

William Lewis Lockwood Society (\$100,000 to \$249,999)

William D. Olinger II '64
Joel A. Pellicci '65
The Boone Family
Jeffery A. Boone '80
Stephen K. Boone '80

L.G. Balfour Society (\$50,000 to \$99,999)

John M. Nabers '60
Kirkpatrick Family Gift
John W. Kirkpatrick III '64
Kenneth B. Kirkpatrick '91
Vernon Swartsel '65
John C. Briggs '67
James C. Bounds '91

Friendship, Justice & Learning Society (\$25,000 to \$49,999)

Shapiro Family
Mark Shapiro, *Alpha Eta* '93
Jack Shapiro, *Gamma Theta* '23
Charles "Chic" Holden Jr. '62
Henry W. Haeseker '63
In memory of
Sweetheart Nancy Sue Wilson '63
Hartman Family Gift
William T. Hartman '65
Michael S. Hartman '70
Frank W. Hartman, *Beta Psi* '71

Robert F. Stuart Sr. '75
Mike Carroll '76
Robert T. Hawksley '79
Scott G. Hawkins '80
John E. Kampfe '80
James C. Polkinghorn '80
David A. Black '81
In memory of
Deedy and Rodd Carrier '81
Mark A. Sessums '83
J. Daniel Singleton Jr. '83
Lucas Fleming '84
Richard R. Alexander '86
In memory of
John B. Cato '86
Robert L. Castillo '89
Frank F. Fernandez III '89
Michael T. Hoyt '89
William C. Guthrie '90
W. Todd Menke '90
Jim Wetzel '90
Edward "Alex" Santos '93
James L. Springer Jr. '93
Rodrigo Bolanos, M.D. '94
Rodrigo Pressly '96
Theodore S. Kypreos '99

Constantine Chapter Society (\$15,000 to \$24,999)

Mark A. Rosser '79
Jay B. Starkey III '85
Jim Thames '89
Kevin S. Probel '93
Ryan P. Evans '94

Gamma Theta 1924 Society (\$10,000 to \$14,999)

Culpepper Family Gift
P. Bruce Culpepper '63
J. Bruce Culpepper '88
Brad Culpepper '92
Council "Butch" Wooten Jr. '64
Frank P. Saier '67
Louis K. Minter '73
George J. Albright '78
The Connelly Family
Paul M. Connelly '79
Michael J. Connelly '80
Michael S. Caudill '83
In memory of
Lenny Cruz '81
Troy F. Storey '83
In memory of
John D. Bank '82 and
Charles A. Morehead '82
Henry Gonzalez III '90
John V. Marra '95
The Weinberg Family
Mark H. Weinberg '97
Michael N. Weinberg '03

White Cross Society (\$5,000 to \$9,999)

Ken Norrie '68
Curtis T. Jones '69
Kenneth P. Mingledorff '69
John T. Cash III '90
Brant Fleming '90
Jeffrey M. Sullivan '96
Brad T. Bassler '98
Albert F. Kaminsky '13
Paras S. Saxena '15
Tyler L. Cameron '19

Blue & Gold Society (\$2,500 to \$4,999)

Bill Rochat '65
Thomas A. DeMarco III '70
Eric P. Carlson '84
In memory of
Carl G. Carlson '55
The Page Family Gift
Robert Draughn Page
Gregg A. Page '84
Bruce H. Denson '89
Max R. Macon '98
Taylor C. Kessel '01

George Ade Society (\$1,000 to \$2,499)

Carl D. Collins '64
James W. East '95

Campaign Status at a Glance
As of October 8, 2021

\$3 Million
Goal

\$1,623,201
Written
Commitments

54%
of Goal
Raised

88
Total
Contributors

2,264
Active
Alumni



Consul Drew Goodwin '22 was selected to be on the UF Homecoming Court for fall 2021.

On the Road to Becoming Better Men Undergraduate Chapter Remains Resilient

So far, 2021 has been a great year for the Gamma Theta Chapter of Sigma Chi. After a year of unknown amidst a global pandemic, our chapter continues to fight the good fight and help others. We completed our annual Derby Days and raised \$22,000—our highest amount in the last two decades! We thank everyone who helped make this possible.

Our recently graduated brothers have been busy this year. We had Gamma Thetas move on to launch satellites into space, work for financial institutions in New York, and attend law schools all over the country. In terms of campus involvement, Sigma Chi remains the most influential chapter at UF. Brothers **David Kays '22** and **Drew Goodwin '22** continue to lead the way as part of student government and Florida Blue Key. Brothers **Taysir Ismail '23** and **John Cuttita '24** recently started the first cryptocurrency and alternative assets club here at UF, already reaching a member count of more than 50 people. Additionally, Brother **Antonio Giraldo '25** secured a national championship ring as a part of the 2021 UF men's tennis team.

Fall 2021 recruitment was headed by Recruitment Chairman **Jack Shapiro '23** in September, and while upholding our one-man rule, we had a bid acceptance rate of over 92% with 48 out of 52 bids being accepted. Pledgeship is underway, and Magister **Thomas Godwin '22** continues the Gamma Theta process of turning men into leaders as we mold the next generation of great Gamma Thetas.

In Hoc,
Chase Herron '22
Public Relations Chairman



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THE FALL 2021 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Top Row (Left to Right): Joe Munoz '24, IFC Delegate; CJ Muscanera '23, Scholarship Chairman; Thomas Godwin '22, Magister; Jack Shapiro '23, Social Chairman and Recruitment Chairman; Ben Glassmen '24, Alumni Chairman/Tribune; Trevor Isakson '24, Risk Manager; Jack Strom '24, Kustos. Bottom Row (Left to Right): Patrick Smith '23, Steward; Max Blessing '23, House Manager; Chase Herron '22, PR Chairman; Dylan Mchugh '23, Quaestor; Brady Bunker '22, Annotator; Will Sawarynski '22, Pro-Consul; Andrew Goodwin '22, Consul; Hagen Turner '24, Philanthropy Chairman; Hector Monforte '24, PR Chairman; Brett Lamoriello '23, Service Chairman.

Attention: This newsletter is intended for alumni, undergraduates, and parents. If your son is still attending the University of Florida, he will receive a copy at the chapter house. If he has graduated, please send us his permanent address to update our records. Thank you.