



GAMMA THETA TIMES

SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Approaching a Century of Excellence *Much to Be Thankful for at Gamma Theta*

Gamma Theta has been at the pinnacle of Greek life at the University of Florida for nearly 100 years. As we approach our centennial, we can confidently reflect on a rich history marked by academic achievement, athletic success, campus leadership, and a strong legacy of brotherhood. In our near century as a chapter, we've celebrated great accomplishments to keep our brothers optimistic, and we've faced challenges that have taught our brothers perseverance and resilience. This last year was no different.

Faced with a worldwide pandemic, our undergraduate members came together to overcome new and unexpected challenges. As a chapter, they managed new regulations to fight the virus' spread, upheld their reputation on

campus and in the classroom, gave back to the community through philanthropy, supported each other through loss, and pursued careers in business, law, public service, technology and more.

As a chapter, our goal is to continue this tradition of excellence in recruiting and cultivating men of substance. We are beyond grateful for the alumni who have stepped up to help us in pursuing this goal. Because of your support, we are proud to say that our chapter is thriving as part of the vibrant Greek community at UF.

We also owe credit to our house director, Charlene Beckman, who helped us successfully navigate the 2020-21 academic year. Read more

about how she has been an integral part of our chapter in this issue of the *Gamma Theta Times*.

Gamma Theta Chapter has impacted the lives of hundreds of brothers in our near century at UF. In this newsletter, we highlight two of these men, **Steve Boone '80** and **Jeff Boone '80**, and their strong sense of connection to our brotherhood.

We hope you enjoy this issue and we look forward to sharing more news with you later this year.

In Hoc,
Gamma Theta House Corporation

House Director Charlene Beckman Essential to Sigma Chi Navigating Pandemic Life at UF

When the pandemic hit the U.S. in early March 2020, one of Gamma Theta's members who lived in the chapter house was diagnosed with COVID-19. Later that month, the chapter house was forced to close, and a virus suppression team treated the house. Not knowing what the chapter members and support staff were facing, House Director Charlene Beckman set out to learn all she could and to implement what she thought could work to safely reopen the house in the fall.



systems were installed in all the air conditioners. Plexiglass dividers were installed for dining room tables so six members could be seated at a table rather than only three without dividers. Twelve hand sanitizing stations were also placed throughout the house.

"I wanted things to be as close to 'normal' yet as safe as possible," she shared.

"With seemingly endless Zoom presentations and with all the support of the house corporation, decisions were made," Charlene said.

Under Charlene's leadership, automatic flushers were installed in all restrooms, partitions were built in the showers, and air purification

Thanks to Charlene's diligence and proactive leadership, Gamma Theta was able to reopen in the fall, and the chapter has remained a leader within the Greek community and on campus at UF.

Charlene was born and raised in Michigan and spent 20 years in Arkansas, where she was a cook for Sigma Chi at the University of Arkansas. She moved to Florida in 2001 and has been with Gamma Theta Chapter since December 2010.



Brothers participate in Tri Delta Triple Play to support St. Jude.



Our spring 2021 new members.

GRATEFUL FOR THE GAMMA THETA EXPERIENCE

Steve Boone '80 and Jeff Boone '80 Share How Sigma Chi Has Impacted Their Lives

From a very early age, **Steve Boone '80** and **Jeff Boone '80** had a good understanding of how special it is to work together with people you care about toward common goals. They witnessed that first-hand while growing up and watching their father start his own law firm in Venice, Florida, and make a massive impact while working with others to build the community.

Steve and Jeff joined their father at Boone Law Firm after graduating from the University of Florida, but not before joining another organization of like-minded people with high expectations. The Boone brothers feel blessed to have gravitated toward Gamma Theta during their time at UF, and they remain active in their efforts to building a stronger Sigma Chi brotherhood at their alma mater today.

“I believe any alumnus who had a positive experience while an active brother has a duty and responsibility to give back to and support the chapter in any way they can,” Jeff said. “We were supported by older alumni when we were active, and it’s our turn to do our part for those who follow us. I am also 100% into the fact that we are a lifetime fraternity and to reconnect and stay in touch helps keep that lifetime experience alive.”

All the fun times Steve and Jeff shared with their Gamma Theta brothers while hanging out around the chapter house, eating in the dining room, playing interfraternity league sports, going on road trips, and attending band parties, socials, and Gator games are still some of their greatest memories. Steve and Jeff remain in close contact with many Sigma Chis in the Venice area, and Steve also bought a second home in North Carolina near two Gamma Theta brothers.

“Sigma Chi introduced me to my best friends in college and they are my best friends 40 years later,” Steve said. “It was the perfect place for me. We shared the same morals, values, expectations, hopes, and dreams.”

Along with gaining dozens of lifelong friends in his fraternity brothers, Jeff was introduced to his best friend, Shirley, who was a Gamma Theta Little Sister. Jeff and Shirley are now married with three children who are all UF graduates. Steve and his wife, Jennifer, also have three children.

After becoming values-based leaders at Gamma Theta who were committed to the betterment of character, campus, and



Blake Hostetter '81 and Steve Boone '80 with their wives in the Netherlands.

community, it was time for Jeff and Steve to apply those values during law school and then while working with their father at Boone Law Firm. With now having nearly 80 combined years between them of practicing law, Jeff and Steve have helped their family firm earn an AV rating, which is the highest possible rating from the Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory. What’s more, the values they’ve learned from their father and Sigma Chi have been passed down to Jeff’s son, Jackson; his daughter, Annie; and Steve’s son, Stuart, who now work with them at the family firm.



Mark Mayfield '81, Clay Johnson '80, and Jeff Boone '80 play golf in Vegas.

“I spent several years with young men my age whose character truly inspired me. The values of Sigma Chi have been an irreplaceable part of my life,” Jeff said. “I learned there is great benefit in getting past first impressions of people and that being around people who have different opinions and perspectives is tremendously important. I also learned how to work with many different types of people and saw how the end results of that work are oftentimes stronger than it would have been otherwise. Any successes I have had in my life are due in large part to my experiences in Sigma Chi.”

You can connect with Jeff at jboone@boone-law.com and Steve at sboone@boone-law.com.



Michael Kennedy '20 celebrates his induction into Florida Blue Key!



Congratulations to our spring 2021 seniors!



Remembering Tate Hankla '23, who sadly passed away in May 2020.



Our White Rose ceremony, in memory of Tate Hankla '23.



The fall 2021 executive committee.

CELEBRATING BROTHERHOOD IN CHALLENGING TIMES

Gamma Theta Looks Forward to a Safer Fall Semester

New Member Initiation

As the challenges of COVID-19 continued this spring, one of our highlights was welcoming 11 new brothers to Gamma Theta Chapter. Having completed their pledgeship, these men have entered post-initiation training to fully complete their transition into the chapter. They are full of promise, and we look forward to the incredible things they will do for our chapter!

Michael Kennedy Florida Blue Key

This semester, esteemed brother **Michael Kennedy '20** was inducted into Florida Blue Key. Michael has served the chapter well as quaestor and Peterson chairman and by always giving back when he can. He truly symbolizes the spirit of a Sigma Chi.

Graduating Seniors

We are proud of our seniors' resilience in finishing their studies and enjoying their last ride at the University of Florida. They were great teachers and role models to the younger brothers. We support them as they enter the workforce or continue their studies. Thank you for all your service to Sigma Chi, brothers!

Spring Activities

Our brothers took the spring semester as an opportunity to get involved in many philanthropies around campus. In February 2021, two teams of Gamma Theta brothers competed in Tri Delta Triple Play to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Both teams won, tying for first place in different brackets. Another highlight was the announcement of our newest sweetheart, Payton Lawrence of Alpha Delta Pi!

Executive Committee

With executive committee elections completed, we can proudly say our fall 2021 leaders exemplify Sigma Chi's values. We welcome **Drew Goodwin '22** as consul, **Will Sawarynski '22** as pro consul, **Dylan McHugh '23** as quaestor, **Thomas Godwin '22** as magister, **Brady Bunker '22** as annotator, **Trevor Isackson '24** as risk manager, **Jack Shapiro '23** as both social chairman and recruitment chairman, and **Patrick Smith '23** as steward. We look forward to the great work of these men and thank our past officers for paving the way. We would not be in the position we are without the contributions of past executive members and the support of the chapter.

Memorial for Tate Hankla '23

In May 2020, the chapter suffered a great loss due to the passing of Brother **Tate Hankla '23**. As a vibrant part of the chapter, Tate is greatly missed and continuously remembered. In addition to Sigma Chi, Tate was involved in Project Makeover along with several other brothers. In his honor, Project Makeover planted a tree to represent Tate's charisma and compassion. On April 9, the chapter honored and celebrated Tate's life with a White Rose Ceremony. Tate was a true embodiment of Sigma Chi and Gamma Theta. His pure heart and one-of-a-kind personality will always be with us.

Thank you, alumni, for reading this newsletter and for your continued support. We can't wait to welcome you back to the chapter house soon!

In Hoc,
Drew Goodwin '22, Consul
(484) 574-1306 | drewrock@comcast.net

ALUMNI UPDATE

CHAPTER ETERNAL

John Kramer '53 entered Chapter Eternal on August 30, 2020, at the age of 90. His daughter shared that he loved his time at the University of Florida.

ALUMNI NEWS

Jim Wiltshire '53 is retired and lives at Oak Hammock at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Fla., with his wife, Susan. They have traveled all over the world and have gone on international trips every year since 1985.

Richard "Keene" Kohrt '58 is involved in his community and church organizations. He enjoys canoeing, hunting, fishing, and spending time with his grandchildren. Keene lives in Wrangell, Ark. Email: cfayeko@gci.net

William Perkins '58 and his wife, Mariel, have been married for 31 years. They reside in Zephyrhills, Fla. Email: canadianstamps@gmail.com

Ronald Dachelet '65 has been in private practice optometry for 45 years. He lives in Anniston, Ala. Email: drdach@yahoo.com

Tom Mairs '67 toured the country and Canada in a motor home for five years following retirement. He then toured Europe via cruise ships. Tom is now enjoying occasional travel, spending time with his three grandchildren, and playing bridge. He lives in Lewisville, Texas. Email: jfmairs@gmail.com

Stuart Young IV '69 is a recently retired psychologist. He was in practice for 38 years. Stuart and his wife have two children and three grandchildren. They vacation in Santa Fe, N.M., where they have a cabin. Stuart enjoys writing songs and playing at local songwriters' concerts. He lives in Jacksonville Beach, Fla. Email: youngstuart@gmail.com

Robert Stuart Sr. '75 retired from Christian Service Center after 25 years. He still serves as a city council member. Robert has been reelected four times and served 15 years. He lives in Orlando, Fla. Email: rfstuart8676@earthlink.net

Den Trumbull '77 published a parenting book in 2018, *Loving by Leading: A Parent's Guide to Raising Children*. He lives in Montgomery, Ala. Email: trumbuld3@aol.com

Steve Gilbert '79 retired from defense work in 2011. He opened a local tutoring franchise in 2012 and has owned and operated it for the past eight years. Steve lives in Huntersville, N.C. Email: trebligs@hotmail.com



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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.*

Donny Whittemore '82 started his own law practice, Whittemore P.A., after being a partner in two of Tampa's large firms. He caters to select clients. Donny enjoys playing competitive amateur golf in the FSGA and USGA when he's lucky. He lives in Terrace, Fla. Email: dhw@whittemore.com

Tim Foster '84 has shared 30 years of marriage with his wife, Becky. They have three daughters, Amanda, Sarah, and Ellie. Tim enjoys playing tennis, pickle ball, and golf. He's preparing to move back to Florida. Email: tim_foster@ml.com

William Musser '84 is the manager of technical resources for Tetra Tech, a large international engineering firm. He moved to Evergreen, Colo., to pursue his passion of hiking and climbing in the mountains. William has made 2,800 ascents and tries to climb every day. Three of his four children are married and he has one grandson. His oldest son became a Life Loyal Sig and was the chapter advisor for Tampa. Email: musmusic@yahoo.com

Goran "John" Olivecrona '86 is a senior interventional cardiologist. He defended his Ph.D. in 2007. John frequently travels to do

hands-on teaching in complex procedures, but hasn't been doing so during the pandemic. He loves traveling and skiing, and is married with two sons and one daughter. John lives in Lund, Sweden. Email: goran.olivecrona@med.lu.se

Jason Hoyos '05 and his wife, Cristina, welcomed their second son, Noah Alexander, in 2020. Noah joins older brother Lucas. Jason works for the Miami Beach Anesthesiology Associates as associate program director, anesthesiology residency at Mt. Sinai Medical Center in Miami Beach, Florida. Email: jasonmhoyos@gmail.com

Bryson Johnson '07 serves as a space operations officer for the newly established Marine Corps Forces Space Command. He lives in Orlando, Fla. Email: brysonj03@yahoo.com.

Kyle Johnson '08 is pursuing a residency in equine community practice at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine. He completed his DVM degree at Mississippi State. Kyle lives in College Station, Texas. Email: kyle.c.johnson1@gmail.com