



THE STEEL JACKET

SIG



GAMMA UPSILON CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI AT MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY ★ FALL 2020



(Left) Kevin Stafford '01, Alan Stuckey '01, and Carey Edwards '00 at the 20th annual Jackson Metro Area Alumni golf tournament.

Prevailing through the Pandemic

Great Things Still Happening for Gamma Upsilon

A lot has happened since the spring edition of *The Steel Jacket Sig* was mailed. The last newsletter went to press right before COVID-19 changed everything. And like then, by the time this newsletter arrives in your mailbox, it's very likely that many other developments will have taken place. But as I write these words in early October, our undergraduate brothers are back in school and have begun their new school year.

CATCHING UP WITH THE ACTIVE CHAPTER

While it certainly hasn't been business as usual for our undergraduate brothers due to COVID-19 related restrictions, I'm proud of how they are making the best of a difficult situation. I think you'll be impressed with their accomplishments, and I encourage you to read more about them in the excellent update from Chapter Consul **Jonathan Boone '21** on page 3.

A GREAT TIME ON THE GOLF COURSE

On August 8, we held our 20th annual Jackson Metro Area Alumni golf tournament, which was hosted by **Ted Kendall III '58** in Bolton, Mississippi. This year's event was slightly scaled back due to COVID-19, but we still raised \$5,000. A big THANK-YOU to the golfers and sponsors who supported this fundraiser! I can't thank Ted enough for his generosity and leadership in organizing this event for the past 20 years.

Here are this year's winners.

First Place	Second Place
Henry Agent '95	Whit Kendall '16
Peyton Stewart '23	Sykes Heard '13
Griffin Agent '23	John Roberson '16

Third Place (tie)
Britt Mitchall '23
Ross Hailey '98
Ted Kendall IV '82
Michael Heard '83
Andrew Heard '11

GREAT LEADERSHIP AT GAMMA UPSILON

One of the hallmarks of Sigma Chi is leadership and we are blessed to have **Charlie Winfield '94** and **Doug Cater '96** as our chapter advisors. They are the boots on the ground dealing with the day-to-day issues that 2020 has presented and have skillfully helped Gamma Upsilon navigate one of the most challenging times in our brotherhood's history. Running a chapter is hard. Running a chapter during a pandemic is almost unfathomable. And while there are still rough waters ahead and many more challenges to navigate, I'm grateful for Charlie's and Doug's leadership.

The next time you see them, be sure to thank them.

In Hoc,
Carey Edwards '00
House Corporation President
(662) 308-3187
carey.edwards@bxs.com

Follow Us Online



Please join our alumni Facebook group: Mississippi State Sigma Chi Official Alumni Page



See what is going on with the chapter on Instagram: @msusigmachi



Follow us on Twitter for additional chapter updates: @msusigmachi



Supporting Gamma Upsilon's Promising Future

Thank You, Generous Alumni

We are extremely grateful for the loyal alumni who have responded so far to our spring appeal and contributed \$5,948 to our annual campaign. These funds will go a long way in aiding our undergraduate chapter as they grow as brothers and as men. Alumni involvement is vital to Gamma Upsilon's success, and your steadfast support directly impacts the future of Sigma Chi at MSU.

If you would like to contribute to the chapter's ongoing efforts of continuing excellence at MSU, you can visit our online giving portal at <https://tinyurl.com/y7gxbjoe>. If you would prefer to send a check, please make it payable to the Gamma Upsilon House Corporation and send to Sigma Chi, Mississippi State, Payment Processing, P.O. Box 2187, Columbus, GA 31902-2187. Gifts are not tax deductible. A receipt will be provided.

Charles L. Waters '49	Tom Crain Jr. '72
James M. McReynolds Jr. '54	Fred W. McCaleb '72
Robert E. Torbert '55	James H. Clayton '73
Robert E. McCaleb '56	David H. Morgan '79
R. Bardin Redditt '57	Theodore H. Kendall IV '82
Martin R. Swayze '57	William W. Carroll '86
Carl R. Montgomery '61	Robert K. McRaney '88
James W. Carpenter '67	Guy M. Clayton '90
Dan L. Donald Jr. '67	William R. McReynolds '95
Benjamin T. Ellis Jr. '68	James B. Smillie '01
Edward T. Short '68	John Coyt Hutchinson III '07

Alumni Update

Chapter Eternal

Ed Hendley Jr. '61 entered Chapter Eternal on November 12, 2019, at the Veteran's Home in Mexico, Mo., following five years of health struggles. His widow, Virginia, appreciates everything Sigma Chi gave to her and Ed.

Alumni News

Brad Bradley '57 was selected as a Significant Sig in 2020. He lives in Dallas, Texas. Email: bradbradley53@gmail.com

Dan Johnson '70 retired after serving 26 years in the military and spending 45 years as a pharmacist. He lives in Tupelo, Miss. Email: dkj2209@bellsouth.net

Bill Parks Jr. '79 sold his family GM dealership franchise after his family had it for four generations. It served their community for 95 years. His two daughters are Mississippi State graduates. They were both Delta Gammas and Homecoming queens. Bill lives in New Albany, Miss. Email: bparks38652@gmail.com

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GRATEFUL FOR GAMMA UPSILON

Weems Family Shares Their Wealth of Sigma Chi

When it came time for **Ross Weems '09** and **Randall Weems '12** to each attend Mississippi State University, they didn't have to worry about finding a place on campus that felt like home. Ross and Randall were the third generation of Weems brothers to join Gamma Upsilon, and they have seen the impact of the brotherhood since birth.



Belk Weems '79, Randall Weems '12, and Ross Weems '09.

"It has been a special experience to follow the Weems family tradition and share this bond with my grandfather, **Ralph Weems '55**; father, **Belk Weems '79**; Randall; and other family members," Ross said. "I've been so blessed to see the incredible, lifelong impact that Sigma Chi has had on each of us through the highs and lows of our lives. Whether in Starkville, a random small town in Mississippi or traveling around the country, Sigma Chi is universally known and well-respected."

Along with sharing the Gamma Upsilon experience with Ross, Randall followed in the footsteps of his older brother with the leadership positions he served within the chapter. The skills they learned from serving as a Recruitment Chairman and Pro Consul prepared them for their respective careers. Ross is First Vice President for BankPlus, while Randall is Vice President of the Professional Liability Practice Group with HUB International.

"I enjoyed my time as Recruitment Chairman and Pro Consul and working with men of different generations from 18 to 80 years old that all worked together toward a common goal of bettering the chapter," Randall said. "I also loved planning events for the chapter and alumni to enjoy, whether it was a date party at Anthony's, Derby Days, or the chapter's 75th anniversary event."

Belk enjoyed hosting rush parties when Randall and Ross were recruitment chairmen and getting to know their pledge brothers when he welcomed them over for Sunday night dinners. He feels blessed to have been pinned by his father, Ralph, and to have that same opportunity to pin Ross and Randall. "I grew up in a Sigma Chi family and a strong Sigma Chi community in West Point, Mississippi, that included several family friends, so it was a given that I wanted to follow in their path if given the opportunity," Belk said. "Fortunately for me, it all worked out."

Ross and Randall have also followed their father and grandfather's lead by staying connected with their brothers after graduating from Mississippi State and have supported the active chapter in various capacities. They both served as a Graduate Advisor for the Gamma Upsilon Chapter when they were in graduate school and are now members of the Sigma Chi Alumni Chapter in Jackson, Mississippi.

"I enjoyed this 'victory lap' in graduate school and became close friends with several guys that eventually made a connection for me and my wife and were in our wedding," Randall said.

Randall and his wife, Mary Clark, reside in Jackson. You can connect with Randall at randall.weems@hubinternational.com.

Ross is recently engaged to Kelly Hines, and they live in Jackson as well. You can reach him at rossweems@bankplus.net.

Belk and his wife, Stacy, reside in West Point, Mississippi.



The 2019-20 recruitment team of Jace Correro '22, Jackson Ikerd '22, Breckon Young '22, and Josh McGowan '22. These brothers did an outstanding job during fall recruitment to bring in 58 new members.



Peyton Case '21, Stephen Matthews '21, Jonathan Boone '21, Jace Correro '22, Breckon Young '22, Walker Clayton '21, Christopher Russell '22, and Reed McIntosh '21 in Breckenridge, Colorado, during spring break.



Reagan Richardson '22, Carter Hunt '22, Nick Stinson '22, Wilson Mink '22, Brady Richardson '22, and Noah Methvin '22 at the Roaring '20s date party at The Mill.

Adding Another Peterson Significant Chapter Award to the Trophy Case

Gamma Upsilon Hosts Inaugural Derby Days Draw Down

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a change in Greek life as we know it, but Gamma Upsilon has adapted very well to this virtual world that we have been living in for the past few months. With many changes in how we do things as a chapter—social gatherings, brotherhood events, chapter meetings, meals at the house, philanthropic duties, etc.—we are still finding ways to be leaders on campus and in our community. As many of you know, these opportunities to meet as a group of 200-plus brothers has been put on hold, but we look forward to the day we can all be together again.

A Gamma Upsilon Tradition Unlike Any Other

The Peterson Significant Chapter Award, sponsored annually by the Sigma Chi Foundation, is the highest honor that the Fraternity bestows upon an undergraduate chapter. The men of Gamma Upsilon were proud to bring another Peterson Significant Chapter Award back to Starkville in 2020. This makes three times in the last four years Gamma Upsilon has earned this prestigious honor. None of it would be possible without our strong bonds and dedication to community service, philanthropy, academics, and much more that has helped build a great Sigma Chi tradition at Mississippi State. We're



Jonathan Boone '21, Spencer Williamson '21, and Tanner Scoville '21 in front of the Ton Bell building before a meal.

excited for the challenge to keep this tradition alive and well in 2021 and beyond.

Prioritizing Philanthropic Efforts

Due to the circumstances surrounding COVID-19, our annual Derby Days event was canceled in the spring. While that was disappointing, we still managed to raise \$20,000 for Huntsman

Cancer Institute and \$73,000 for Catch a Dream Foundation through fundraising, T-shirt sales, sponsorship booklets, and from ticket sales from our inaugural Derby Days Draw Down. This was an amazing accomplishment and was made possible by Derby Days Chairman **Colby Curtis '20**. We want to thank our sponsors and continued support for Derby Days. We are looking forward to being on our normal Derby Days schedule in the spring of 2021.

The ongoing circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic throughout the summer months and fall semester made recruitment difficult for some fraternities on campus. Luckily, Gamma Upsilon had another strong new member class after quickly adapting to an informal recruitment structure. The hard work of **Jace Correro '22** and our recruitment team paid off, as we welcomed 58 new members. Magister **Charlie Greer '21** has enjoyed teaching these young men about our values of friendship, justice, and learning.

In Hoc,

Jonathan Boone '21

Consul

(601) 624-7050

gammaupsilonconsul@gmail.com

CHAPTER OFFICERS

Consul

Jonathan Boone '21

(601) 624-7050

gammaupsilonconsul@gmail.com

Pro Consul

RJ Green '21

Quaester

Spencer Williamson '21

Magister

Charlie Greer '21

Annotator

Max Kirchgessner '21

Recruitment Chairman

Jace Correro '22

Kustos

Dalton Ford '21

Social Chairman

Thomas Guest '21

House Manager

Wilson Volk '22

Chaplain

Cody Dinkelacker '21

Alumni Update

(Continued from page 2)

Stuart Davis '90 has won the Best of Starkville Building Contractor award five times since founding Stuart Davis Construction in 1996. He has built homes for people such as Sly Croom, Jimmy Abraham, Roy Ruby, John Cohen, Ron Polk, Ben Howland, and Vic Schaefer. Stuart feels blessed to play a part in the growing community of Starkville.

John Stephens '95 bought RNT Calls Inc. in 1999 and still owns it today. John's son, **Reece Stephens '22**, followed in his footsteps to Gamma Upsilon. John lives in Stuttgart, Ark. Email: johns@rntcalls.com

William Dalton '97 is a licensed psychologist within a pediatrician office in western North Carolina (Transylvania County). He enjoys spending time outdoors, trail running, mountain biking, kayaking, hiking, and camping. He lives in Brevard, N.C. Email: daltonpediatrictherapy@gmail.com



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Gamma Upsilon House Corporation
Sigma Chi - Mississippi State University
P.O. Box 442100
Lawrence, KS 66044-2100

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Welcome, New Members!

Logan Barber '96*
Madison, Miss.
Father **Chad Barber '96**

Andrew Bartlewski '23*
Birmingham, Ala.
Father **Rich Bartlewski '90**
Uncle **Randy Bartlewski '92**

Matt Billingsley '24
Saltillo, Miss.

David Brawner '24*
Corinth, Miss.
Grandfather
John Robert Davis '62
Father
Braddock Brawner '91
Brother
Braddock Brawner '22

James Brown '24
Starkville, Miss.

Davis Bouchillon '24*
Tupelo, Miss.
Grandfather
Richard McGraw '62
Uncle **Brian McGraw '95**
Brother **Austin Bouchillon '20**

Conrad Bulloch '24
Stuttgart, Ark.

Matthew Butler '24*
Jackson, Miss.
Father **George Butler '93**
Uncle **Allen Fielder '96**

Sam Clark '24*
Starkville, Miss.
Father **Robert Clark '90**
Brother **Houston Clark '20**

William Cookston '24
Greenwood, Miss.

Carter Dargie '24*
Germantown, Tenn.
Brother **Carson Dargie '21**

Patrick Field '24
Madison, Miss.

Griffin Fletcher '24
Collierville, Tenn.

Landon Fulcher '24
Madison, Miss.

Sam Gallop '24
Memphis, Tenn.

Tanner Graves '24
Starkville, Miss.

Shawn Grimes '24*
Madison, Miss.
Brother **Hayden Grimes '16**

Daniel Harrington '24*
Aberdeen, Miss.
Uncle **Hap Harrington '88**
Cousin **Baker Harrington '96**

Daniel Henderson '24
Tupelo, Miss.

Jonah Hepner '24
Detroit, Mich.

Berkley Huskison '24
Columbus, Miss.

Joshua Irby '24
Madison, Miss.

Reed James '24
Madison, Miss.

Jackson Joyner '24
Madison, Miss.

Samuel King '24
Okemos, Mich.

Will Kuhlo '24
Memphis, Tenn.

Claiborne LaGrone '24*
Ocean Springs, Miss.
Grandfather
Don LaGrone '69
Father **Clay LaGrone '90**

David Lee '24
Gulfport, Miss.

Reginald Little '23
Starkville, Miss.

Luke Losordo '24
Tupelo, Miss.

Samuel Lott '24
Tupelo, Miss.

Jared Mangino '24
Madison, Miss.

Walker Manning '23
Madison, Miss.

Jackson McGee '24*
Hattiesburg, Miss.
Father **Sean McGee '90**

Nicholas McGowan '24*
Brandon, Miss.
Brother **Josh McGowan '22**

Amis McMillan '24
Biloxi, Miss.

James Miciello '24
Madison, Miss.

Garrett Mikels '24
Tupelo, Miss.

Paul Montjoy '24
Gulfport, Miss.

Eli Moran '24
Philadelphia, Miss.

Clay Olson '24*
Madison, Miss.
Brett Olson

Blake Painter '24
Jackson, Miss.

Caleb Patterson '24
Corinth, Miss.

Jacob Perkins '24*
Madison, Miss.
Grandfather
Dave Perkins '69
Father **Todd Perkins '94**

Carson Pouncey '24
Brandon, Miss.

Cy Powell '24*
Birmingham, Ala.
Father **Brent Powell '93**

Andrew Purvis '24*
Ridgeland, Miss.
Brother **William Purvis '21**
Brother **David Purvis '23**

James Robbins '24
Greenwood, Miss.

Kyle Savell '24*
Madison, Miss.
Uncle **Ford Dye '90**

Russell Sceroler '24
Madison, Miss.

Collin Sharp '24*
Water Valley, Miss.
Uncle **Scott Ross '82**
Brother **Carson Sharp '20**

Clayton Stoddard '24
Biloxi, Miss.

Robert Vance '24
New Albany, Miss.

Howard West '24*
Memphis, Tenn.
Father **Wade West '88**

Kelsey Whitehead '24*
New Albany, Miss.
Grandfather **John David Pennebaker '65**

William Wilson '24
Clarksdale, Miss.

Michael Winfield '24*
Starkville, Miss.
Father **Charlie Winfield '94**

Logan Yarbrough '24
Columbus, Miss.

*Legacy