

FALL 2008 PLEDGE CLASS

Sumner Adams
Michael Baer
Brooks Blackmon
Barry Boan
John Busse
W. Cory Causey
McLeod Chunn
Logan Cowart
Forrest Fleming
Greg Gilbert
Westley Glisson
Dalton Gregory
Ryan Hamilton
Will Howle
Pitt Hughes
Carter Jackson
Stephen Jaye
Mark Jipson
David Johnson
Myles Maxwell
Griffin McNeill
Jo Moore
Dave Nelson
Richard Nicholas
John Olson
Colin Page
Fraser Perrett
Jeff Rummel
Alex Samples
Ryan Sims
Hurley Spraggins
Matt Stacey
Austin Teel
Nate Tonnemacher
Jake Utley
Devin Vickers
Tyler Windham
Tom Wright

December 2008

The BETA THETA News

Sigma Nu Fraternity • Auburn University • www.sigmanu-auburn.org



COMMANDER'S COLUMN

Beta Theta Improves Grades to a 4th Place GPA and Pledges 38 Men This Semester

*Chapter Advisor John Burgess Also Inducted into John M. Ward
Alumni Hall of Honor*

Dear Brothers, Alumni and Parents,

It has been an honor and pleasure to serve as Beta Theta's Commander this year. Being Commander has been a great learning experience, and I hope to have fulfilled the trust placed in me. Looking forward, we held our first round of nominations for the next term at a recent chapter meeting and election results will be reported soon.

It's been a good year for our chapter. Last fall, we were fifth on campus academically and this past spring, we improved to fourth. We had great alumni participation in our January initiation ceremony.

*"We have a pledge class of 38
members who come from all around
the country..."*

Regent Jay Pitts visited our chapter in April. Brother **Steve O'Neill** received an IFC scholarship. Brothers **Kyle Gaston**, **Michael Walls** and **Michael Sawyer** received the Wilson, Cobb and Rabren awards in the spring. The house was busy this summer with fire sprinkler construction. We are glad to have that completed and several smaller projects as well.

This fall semester we have had a great pledge class, thanks to the work of the Rush Chairmen **Charlie Gibson** of Montgomery and **Bo Bledsoe** of Camden. Our Marshall, **Wilson Shoulders** of Birmingham, has run a great program. We have a pledge class of 38 members who come from all around the country including **Jake Utley** of Dallas, **Nate Tonnemacher** of North Carolina and **John Busse** of West Virginia. We also have our usual crowds from Montgomery, Mobile and the Birmingham areas. I hope you have met many

of our pledges during tailgate events this fall.

In October, **Ronnie '95** and **Allen Baynes '62** spoke to us about their NFL officiating careers, and Dean Foy spoke to us soon thereafter.

It was a real pleasure for us to honor our Advisor **John Burgess '67** on November 15, with induction into the John M. Ward Alumni Hall of Honor. Mr. Burgess has served us faithfully and well for many years, and we look forward to his continuing service as our Advisor.

Best wishes to my successor and all of next year's officers, and many thanks to our alumni and parents for their support of our great fraternity. I would be happy to hear from anyone with questions or comments.

Fraternally,

Kevin Partlow, Beta Theta 2608
205-826-1450; partlkc@auburn.edu



*Kevin Partlow,
Chapter
Commander*

Stay Tuned to the Latest Active and Alumni News Online!

If you don't yet have a username and password for our alumni web site, follow these instructions:

1. Go to www.sigmanu-auburn.org.
2. Click on "First Time Login."
3. Enter your last name.
4. Select your record.
5. Enter your Member ID (found above your name and address on this newsletter).

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Campaign Moving Forward

By Maury Gaston '78, Campaign Chairman; mgaston@acipco.com

Our chapter's capital campaign continues to move forward with pledges totaling \$895,200 from 98 donors at press time. It's time now for more brothers to support the campaign at the smaller gift level. An affordable amount drafted monthly for three to five years makes a great campaign donation. Go to www.sigmanu.org/betathetacampaign for complete information and to print a pledge

form, or call me at 205-902-0910 with any questions or comments. We need 500 additional donors to reach our goal of 30% participation.

As a reminder, our mandated fire sprinkler system was installed this summer and is operational. We have new carpet in the chapter room, new paint in all the common areas, have repaired some air conditioners and

replaced some doors and windows. The next project involves the bathrooms.

Please join us in this worthy investment in your fraternity.

Maury Gaston '78,
Campaign Chairman



CAMPAIGN HONOR ROLL

Preserving our Legacy, Building our Future

Order of Excellence (\$100,000 and above)

Robert Lowder '61
J. Smith Lanier '45
Paul Bryant Jr. '63 (Theta)

Loyal Knights Council (\$25,000 to \$49,999)

Ben Garrett '87
Robert Craft '71
Jimmy Lowder '69
Stephen Durham '08
Dick Mullins '60 (*In honor of*)
Tom Lowder '69
Tee Green '91
Miller Gorrie '54
Robert Heath '76

Sword and Shield Society (\$15,000 to \$24,999)

Ned Pierce '61
Maury Gaston '78
Cary Chandler '78
Bill Wakefield '80

Brotherhood Circle (\$10,000 to \$14,999)

Howard Nelson '66
Gaines Thomas '69
Annette Gaston
(*In memory of Ware Gaston '47*)

Walter Clark '64
Bobby Grant '72
Charles McGehee '65
Ted Wilson '61
Michael Swick '67
Dick Ingwersen '69
John Monroe '72
Bobby Dixon '51
Drew Green '00
Bill Thompson '65
Warren Thompson '91

The 1890 Society (\$5,000 to \$9,999)

Courtland Williams '99
Bailey Bowline '64
Ken Striplin '66
Perry Smith '67
Carl Sharpe '66
John Burgess '67
Greg Breedlove '74
Andy Bolt '75
Bill Dyas '71
Gorman Houston '51
Hal Isbell '75
Paul Leaver '72
Jim Pratt '69
Ronnie Brindley '80
Perry Hayes '71
Jon Anthon Hand III '83
Dwight Wiggins '60

Founders' Circle (\$2,000 to \$4,999)

Pat Sefton '90
Walter Hargrove '62
Louis Colley '76
Tom Glanton '83
Jim Poole '66
Joel M. Gaston '75
Tom Dyas '66
Frank Tomlinson '02
Joe Tuggle '78
Richard H. Yancy IV '73
Albert Scott '63
Morgan Busby '02
Steve Doctorchik '69
Kevin Gaston 2001
Frank Fleming '45
George Hazard, Jr.
Harold "Toby" Probst '54

Commander's Council (\$1,000 to \$1,999)

Michael Sawyer '04
Jimmy Sprayberry '71
Bryan Cotney '00
Berry Grant '61
Claude Buchanan '50
Dobbins Cosby '03
John Greene '65
Tim Hennessey '99
Brian Keeter '83

Jim Langlois '65
Kyle Gaston '04
Michael Aderholt '74
Harris Reynolds '71
Ronald Baynes '62
Lee Turner '87
Cade Cook '72
Glenn B. Smith '34
Homer Turner '45
Will Searcy '00
Steve Simms '76
Wm. C. "Beau" Byrd '86
George W. Thomas '71

The Helping Hand (Up to \$999)

Dennis Pinkard '65
Corley Chapman '58
Gordon Isbell, Jr. '42
Renis Jones '46
Bruce Nichols '65
Marvin Brown '65
Thompson Kelly '48
J. Herbert White '52
Kenneth Schultz '58
Will Starnes '03
Matt Foster '90
Newton Jennings '96
Jim Thurman '51

Being a Member of Sigma Nu Has Defined Rob Herndon's Auburn Experience

Rob Herndon, a senior from Tuscaloosa majoring in economics with a minor in finance, is the child of two Auburn graduates. His father Jim (now deceased) was also a Beta Theta Sigma Nu in the late 1970s. Rob could not be happier that he decided to follow in his father's footsteps and is touched that he has the opportunity to make his own memories in the same place that his father did.

Why did you choose to attend Auburn?

Both my parents went to Auburn. I loved that Auburn is a college town through and through, and it has a family atmosphere that I didn't see anywhere else.

What made you want to join the Greek system?

Fellowship, brotherhood and being a part of something bigger than myself all pointed me toward the Greek system.

Why did you choose to join Sigma Nu?

Being a legacy steered me toward Sigma Nu, along with the history of how good Beta Theta has been for so long. The guys who rushed me made me feel wanted and the way they carried themselves sold me on what Sigma Nu had to offer.

What is your favorite memory from the fraternity?

I have lived at the house all three years so there are too many memories to narrow down. Some of my favorites are the game days with the yard packed with people tailgating, road trips all over the southeast with brothers and some of the big spring weekends.

How has being in a fraternity improved your experience at Auburn?

It has made my Auburn experience, honestly. When people find out you are a Sigma Nu, they have a certain respect because what the Beta Theta Chapter has meant to this campus for so long.

Did your father's membership in Sigma Nu influence your decision to join Beta Theta?

Definitely. He passed away when I was in 7th grade. Some of the men that were here with him have been very good to me over the years. It has meant so much to me to make my own memories in the same place that he made so many. My mom and dad were college sweethearts and I remember how much Dad loved Sigma Nu and when my mother talks about her college experience many of her best

times were at the Sigma Nu house.

Do you currently hold any positions in the fraternity or have you in the past?

Currently I am the Alumni Chairman, and it has been a pleasure to work with all the alumni that come around. I was the Pledge Trainer in the fall of 2007, the year after we had been in a little trouble for hazing. We remade the pledge program and stuck to it and have received no complaints the past two years. I think it's better for the pledges and fraternity as a whole. All of us involved with changing that up are proud of how it has gone.

What else are you involved in (extracurricular activities, employment, etc.)?

I have been involved with the Student Recruiters, IFC Cabinet and SGA Cabinet. I am in the Phi Eta Sigma, Beta Gamma Sigma and Mortar Board honor societies.

What do you want to do after graduation?

I am taking the LSAT soon. Hopefully that will work out and I can go to law school. If not, I will try to stay in the southeast and get a job in economics or finance.

ALUMNI NEWS

Chapter Advisor Honored with Alumni Hall of Honor

In ceremonies at the chapter house on Saturday, November 15, long-time Chapter Advisor **John R. Burgess '67**, Beta Theta 1419, was inducted into the John M. Ward Alumni Hall of Honor. **John Ward**, Beta Theta 187, was Regent of Sigma Nu from 1946-48 and instrumental in Sigma Nu's and Beta Theta's growth. The award was established at the 1980 90th Anniversary event and is presented from time to time to those alumni of Beta Theta who have demonstrated Love, Honor, and Truth to our chapter and throughout their lives.

John Burgess has served as Chapter Advisor since 1997 and has been instrumental in many of our members enrolling at Auburn, staying in school and graduating to productive careers. His positive impact to our chapter has been very substantial.

For more about the day's events, see the article on page 4.



ALUMNI UPDATES

Will Searcy

(P.O. Box 311347, Enterprise, AL 36331-1347; willsearcy@gmail.com) I recently started a new funeral home with my father. In April, I got married and we are enjoying life here in Enterprise.

Thomas J. Tate Jr. '51

(900 Kipling Dr., Atlanta, GA 30318; tomtate@mindspring.com) My career has been in the land business in Atlanta. I have been very lucky and blessed more than I deserve.

Joseph Dyer '92

(559 Moores Mill Rd., Auburn, AL 36830; jdyer@auburnschools.org) We are expecting an addition to the family in April. We found out recently that a baby girl is on the way. Sounds like we are having a 90-year-old woman with the name we picked, Cornelia Rose, but it is Katie's grandmother's name combined with my mother's name. We will call her Nealy. Can't wait until tomorrow because we get better looking everyday!

ALUMNI EVENTS

Big Weekend at Beta Theta of Sigma Nu

November 14 and 15 was a big weekend at Beta Theta of Sigma Nu. The Tyn Tymes played Friday night featuring **Carl Sharpe '66**, **Ken Striplin '66** and **Rick Countryman '65**. Many alumni came and enjoyed the time together.

After the Georgia game the next day,



Sigma Nu alumni rock with The Tyn Tymes at the Auburn/UGA game.

the mom's club met, followed by a program featuring Vice Regent Lee Perrett of Beta Theta and Regent-Elect Robert Durham of Mu chapter at UGA. Regent-Elect Durham presided over the presentation of a duplicate charter presented in honor of **John Burgess '67** by the Gaston family.

Our previous charter was taken from the house two years ago and has not been found. Signatures on the new charter are authentic in style and form, and the document is simply beautiful.

We were then introduced to **Bert Hitchcock '60**, Alpha affiliate #206. Brother Hitchcock was in the first class of Alpha affiliates in 1957. Alpha affiliation is bestowed upon only ten men each year, and is the highest honor a Sigma Nu undergraduate can receive. Bert presented his Alpha mementos

to the chapter, and they will be displayed in the chapter room. We hope he is the first of many Beta Theta Alpha affiliates. Bert's family has been prominent in Beta Theta at Auburn and Auburn athletics.



The program culminated with the induction of **John Burgess '67** into the John M. Ward Alumni Hall of Honor (see more on page 1). Also present for this was **Gordon R. Isbell Jr. '42** another inductee into the hall of honor.

It was a great weekend for Beta Theta of Sigma Nu.



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