

2025 Merit Award Recipients

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Collegiate Awards

Man of the Year

The Fraternity recognizes an individual who has demonstrated all-around excellence in Leadership, Chapter and Campus Involvement, and Scholarship.

Jacob C. Zink (Montana State)

Zeta Nu #943 / Alpha #719

- 3.99 GPA in Business Management and Political Science
- Community Service and Philanthropy Chairman, 2022-2023
- Risk Reduction Chairman & Sentinel, 2023-2024
- IFC Vice President of Communications, 2022
- MSU Student Body President, 2023-2025
- Collegiate Advisor to the High Council, 2024
- NIC Undergraduate Award of Distinction Winner, 2025
- Founder and President, Stop-Hazing Montana Club, 2022-2023
- *"Jacob is simply one of the most outstanding and articulate student leaders I have worked with during my time at Montana State University. He is the definition of a servant leader, and he demonstrates honor and integrity during every interaction I have with him."* – Dr. Matthew R. Cairns (Washington State), Dean of Students, Montana State University

Scholar of the Year

The Fraternity recognizes an individual who has demonstrated in Scholarship.

Jaxon P. Naviaux (Rose-Hulman)

Beta Upsilon #1690

- 3.96 GPA in Computer Engineering
- Commander, 2023-2024
- Captain, Rose-Hulman Varsity Football
- Academic All-Conference, Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference
- Tau Beta Phi Engineering Honor Society
- Social Chairman, Lilly Scholars Network
- Java Programming Teaching Assistant, 2023-2025
- Signal Processing Lab Assistant, 2024-2025
- *"[Jaxon's] work ethic is second to none, and it shows both on the playing field and in the classroom. Not only is Jaxon a strong contributor on the football field, but what is equally as impressive is the academic success that he has seen at our institute."* – Ryan A. Brimberry, Associate Dean of Student Affairs, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

Athlete of the Year

The Fraternity recognizes an individual who has demonstrated excellence in Athletics.

Marshall L. H. Koch (Rose-Hulman)

Beta Upsilon #1688

- 3.45 GPA in Mechanical Engineering (B.S.) and Engineering Management (M.E.M.)
- Commander, 2024-2025
- Alumni Relations Chairman, 2023-2024
- Team Captain, Rose-Hulman Football Varsity Football
- Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference First Team All-Conference Linebacker
- D3 National Team of the Week Selection
- 2x HCAC Defensive Player of the Week
- 2024 Rose-Hulman Football Defensive Player of the Year
- *"In my nine years of coaching and educating, I have encountered numerous players and coaches with talent and passion. Marshall, however, is near the top of the list. While other players may be happy doing the minimum or letting their teammates do enough to just get by, Marshall does not... [He] helps drive others to reach their full potential by pushing them on the field, in the classroom, in the weight room, and in the community."* – Jeffery D. Stanton, Rose-Hulman Football Defensive Coordinator

Talent of the Year

The Fraternity recognizes an individual who has demonstrated excellence in Talent.

George Louis Waddell (Arkansas)

Gamma Upsilon #3455

- 3.60 GPA in Theatre
- Director, *That Heroic Age*
- Lead Actor, Feature Film, *The Space in Between*
- Cast Member, Theatre Production, *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*
- Cast Member, Theatre Production, *Trojan Women*
- Cast Member, Theatre Production, *The Prom*
- Cast Member, Theatre Production, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
- Accomplished Musician on Guitar, Ukulele, Bass Guitar, and Singer
- "Louis not only provided incredible monologues and intimate moments throughout the film but also brought a kindness and confidence to the production that reflected in the final production. Other actors felt inspired and comfortable around him, which led to some of the best performances of their careers. I attribute this solely to Louis' ability to make people feel seen while still giving an unbelievable energy to the film." – Sam Conine, Writer and Director, *The Space In Between*

Alpha Alumni Chapter Affiliates

The Fraternity salutes those Knights, who demonstrate a genuine commitment to the ideals of the Legion of Honor and whose pattern of performance is a worthy example for others to follow. The major emphasis in the selection of a recipient for the Alpha Alumni Chapter Affiliate Program will be evidence of performance in living an honorable life by upholding the ideals of Sigma Nu and influencing others to do the same. Alpha Alumni Chapter Affiliate eligibility is limited to those brothers graduating within the academic year in which they are selected. The award winners below graduated between August 2024 and July 2025.

Brendan I. Ball (UC Davis)

Zeta Xi #1006 / Alpha #710

- 3.30 GPA in Biotechnology with Minor in Economics
- Commander, 2024-2025
- Collegiate Advisor to the Sigma Nu Educational Foundation, 2024-2025
- President, Order of Omega Honor Society, 2024-2025
- Research Intern, Seed Biotechnology Center, 2024-2025
- Team Member, Davis Sailing Team, 2021-2023
- ACE Certified Personal Trainer and Group Exercise Instructor, 2021-2024
- Member of the UC Davis BioInnovation Group, 2022-2025
- *"Over the past 35 years in manufacturing and finance, I have managed hundreds of employees and managers... I can honestly say that Brendan is as good an individual contributor and leader as I have seen in either my career or personal life. He is the kind of man that I look for and promote in my own business endeavors. He is extremely talented, and he has the character, work ethic, persistence, and teachability that it takes to succeed."* – Michael Wheeler (UC Davis), Zeta Xi Chapter Advisor

Tyler A. Bartman (Jefferson)

Mu Pi #235 / Alpha #711

- 3.78 GPA in Marketing
- Commander, 2023-2024
- Lieutenant Commander, 2022-2023
- Collegiate Advisor to the High Council, 2024
- Founder and Team Leader, Jefferson Case Competition Team
- Sophomore and Junior Class President, Jefferson Student Government Association
- Admissions Ambassador, 2022-2024
- Jefferson Peer Mentor, 2023-2024
- *"In my time working with student leaders, few have stood out with the same level of professionalism, respect, and commitment to service as Tyler. He is a student of exceptional character who embodies the core values of Sigma Nu and represents our university with integrity and pride."* – Dr. Geoffrey Cromarty, Senior Vice President, Thomas Jefferson University

Stegner E. Bell (Arizona State)**Zeta Upsilon #1654 / Alpha #712**

- 3.70 GPA in Business Data Analytics and Marketing
- LEAD Chairman, 2024-2025
- Recruitment Chairman, 2022-2023
- Collegiate Advisor to the Sigma Nu Educational Foundation, 2024-2025
- Founder and Executive Director, ASU Greek Fest
- Vice President of Professional Development, Order of Omega Honor Society
- President and Co-Founder, XHunger
- Director of Government Affairs, ASU Student Government
- *"What sets Stegner apart is not just his long list of accomplishments, but how he leads—with humility, compassion, and unwavering integrity. He is the embodiment of what it means to be a Sigma Nu: a servant-leader, a scholar, and a man of character."* – Scott Rutledge (Arizona State) Chapter Advisor

Lawson T. Ewing (Texas Christian)**Lambda Epsilon #585 / Alpha #713**

- 3.98 GPA in Marketing with Minors in Finance and Leadership; Consultative Sales Certificate
- Commander, 2022-2023
- LEAD Chairman, 2021-2022
- President, TCU BNSF Neeley Leadership Program Student Cabinet, 2024
- Clark Society Scholar (Top 12 Junior Class Selection), 2024
- Frog Camp Facilitator, TCU Leadership and Student Involvement, 2022-2024
- Frog Aides, TCU Student Government Association, 2021-2022
- VP of Research and Operations, RiffRamRead Impact Project, 2023-2025
- *"Lawson leads by example and does an amazing job of motivating chapter members to commit to campus involvement and service opportunities with him. He is the kind of person who always puts the chapter's needs before his own...Lawson is a perfect example of what represents the best of Sigma Nu."* – Dr. Victor Boschini (Mount Union), Chancellor, Texas Christian University

Preston R. Ewing (Alabama)**Theta #2815 / Alpha #714**

- 3.98 GPA in Operations Management
- Commander, 2024-2025
- Lieutenant Commander, 2023-2024
- Community Service and Philanthropy Chairman, 2022-2023
- Selection to Jason's Senior Men's Honorary (40 Most Influential Men at UA), 2025
- 2025 University of Alabama Most Outstanding Senior Award
- 2025 University of Alabama Most Outstanding Transfer Award
- Head of Fundraising, The Fight Against Suicide LLC at The University of Alabama, 2024-2025
- *"From the time I met Preston last year after he was elected Commander, I have continuously been impressed with the work he has been able to accomplish...Preston is the epitome of what we hope our Greek men and women aspire to be like."* – James Spry, University of Alabama Assistant Director of Fraternity & Sorority Life

Jackson M. A. Gordon (Southern Methodist)**Iota Theta #160 / Alpha #715**

- 3.47 GPA in Economics (Finance)
- Risk Management Chairman and Sentinel, 2023
- President, SMU Interfraternity Council, 2024
- Vice President of Recruitment, SMU Interfraternity Council, 2023
- North American Interfraternity Conference IFC Advisory Board, 2024-2025
- 2024 NIC Outstanding IFC President Award
- 2025 A. Kenneth Pye Award Recipient (Awarded to 6 Outstanding Graduating Seniors)
- Student Advisory Board Member, SMU Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs, 2024-2025
- *"What makes Jackson unique is not just his ability to lead—but how he leads. He brings others with him. He carries himself with humility, intentionality, and an unwavering focus on elevating those around him. Whether in one-on-one conversations or in front of a room full of his peers, Jackson inspires trust and respect—not through title or authority, but through authenticity."* – Dominic Frattura (Arizona State), NIC Director of Advocacy

James W. Moon, V (Wofford)**Eta Omicron #894 / Alpha #716**

- 3.99 GPA in Biology
- Lieutenant Commander, 2024
- LEAD Chairman, 2023
- Team Captain, NCAA Division 1 Cross Country and Track
- Southern Conference All-Academic Honor Roll and All-Academic Team
- Chair, Wofford Activities Council, 2024-2025
- Chair, Judicial Commission, 2024-2025
- President, Alpha Epsilon Delta Honor Society, 2024
- *"Among the 200 students I have had at Wofford in recent semesters, without exaggeration, James stands out as the most committed, hard-working, and self-motivated individual among them all."* – Dr. Michael Lee Cato, Visiting Assistant Professor of Biology, Wofford College

Aidan P. O'Brien (Northern Illinois)**Theta Eta #680 / Alpha #717**

- 3.47 GPA in Marketing; Professional Selling and Digital Marketing Certificates
- Commander, 2023-2024
- Recruitment Chairman, 2024-2025
- Marshal, 2022-2023
- LEAD Chairman, 2021-2022
- NIU FSL Awards – 2025 President of the Year
- President, NIU Student Activities Board, 2023-2024
- Student Trustee, NIU Student Government Association, 2024-2025
- *"In my decades of work in higher education and student affairs, it is not hyperbole that Aidan ranks among the top 1-2% of students I have ever worked alongside. His impact is not solely the result of his extensive leadership roles or campus accolades but rather the way he embodies those roles with soul, strategy, and sincerity. He is, quite simply, the kind of man I admire deeply and hope to have in my professional and personal life for many years to come."* – Dr. Clint-Michael Reneau, Vice President, Northern Illinois University

Jake P. Wagner (Illinois State)**Theta Rho #626 / Alpha #718**

- 3.71 GPA in Physical Education K-12
- Commander, 2022-2023
- Alumni Relations Chairman, 2023-2024
- Scholarship Chairman, 2021-2022
- Illinois State SFL Fraternity Man of the Year, 2025
- Illinois State SFL Council Exec Member of the Year, 2025
- Illinois State SFL President of the Year, 2024
- President, Order of Omega
- *"I wholeheartedly believe that students, faculty, and staff are extremely lucky to work with and alongside Jake. He is honorable in all that he is committed to, never promising to do something he cannot see through completely... It is my belief that the Illinois State University is a better and brighter campus due to Jake's dedication and leadership both inside and out of the classroom."* – Adam Gentry, Program Coordinator, Illinois State University Sorority & Fraternity Life

Jacob C. Zink (Montana State)**Zeta Nu #943 / Alpha #719**

- 3.99 GPA in Business Management and Political Science
- Community Service and Philanthropy Chairman, 2022-2023
- Risk Reduction Chairman & Sentinel, 2023-2024
- IFC Vice President of Communications, 2022
- MSU Student Body President, 2023-2025
- Collegiate Advisor to the High Council, 2024
- NIC Undergraduate Award of Distinction Winner, 2025
- Founder and President, Stop-Hazing Montana Club, 2022-2023
- *"In my 29 years working with students in my various roles at Montana State University, I have never encountered a stronger leader than Jacob. He is highly respected by his peers, who recognize him as a leader with their best interests and welfare in mind."* – Dr. Steven P. Swinford, Vice President for Student Success, Montana State University

Alumni, Advisor, & Volunteer Awards

Alumni Chapter Officer of the Year

This award is given to the Alumni Chapter Officer who has shown through years of service a leadership contribution to the organization, development and programming by an alumni chapter, and collaboration with chapter and collegiate members.

George S. Kininmonth (Cal State Chico)

Iota Kappa #208

- Commander, Iota Kappa Alumni Chapter, 2022-present
- Vice President, Iota Kappa House Corporation, 2022-present
- Led the development of the alumni chapter and cultivated over 130 engaged alumni brothers.
- *"I have witnessed George's passion and dedication firsthand. He has relentlessly worked hard to enhance alumni engagement, foster connections, and create meaningful programs that benefit our chapter. Moreover, George possesses exceptional organizational skills and a remarkable ability to inspire others. He has a knack for bringing together diverse groups and encouraging collaboration toward our common goal - to re-establish Iota Kappa Chapter."* – Keith Mortensen (Cal State Chico), Marshal, Iota Kappa Alumni Chapter

Campus Advisor of the Year

This award recognizes the college/university administrator who, through years of service, has demonstrated exceptional service and performance in the areas of fraternity advisement and related responsibilities, including advisement, innovative programming, professional contributions, collegiate leadership development, and research or publication in fraternity/sorority life.

Dr. Francisco M. Lugo (Phi Iota Alpha Fraternity, Inc.)

Georgia Southern University

- Director, Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life, Georgia Southern University, 2013-Present
- Executive Director, Phi Iota Alpha Fraternity, Inc., 2010-2019
- Oversees community of 16 IFC Fraternities, 10 Panhellenic Sororities, and 10 NPHC Chapters across two GSU campuses, Statesboro and Armstrong.
- *"During the time Dr. Lugo has been at Georgia Southern, Sigma Nu has flourished, and the Greek community has grown. He maintains an "open door policy" for chapter presidents, officers, and really anyone in the Greek community. I personally count him as an "advisor to advisors," a mentor, and a professional colleague."* – Bill Geddy (Georgia Southern), Division Commander – Southeast Beta

Chapter Advisor of the Year

This award is given to a Chapter Advisor who through their years of service has been noted for their outstanding work and achievement offered to a collegiate chapter during the previous year. The Chapter Advisor of the Year is one who demonstrates a genuine commitment to the ideals of Sigma Nu and has modeled them through attendance at officer and chapter meetings, support for chapter goal setting and achievement, assistance in the development of special chapter events and programs, and support for *The Ritual* and its values.

Kevin M. Kedzior (Northern Illinois)

Theta Eta #275

- Chapter Advisor, 2009-2011; 2022-Present (5 years, total)
- 2024 Alumni Advisor of the Year, NIU Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life
- Established Theta Eta Chapter's Commander's Dinner in Spring 2020
- Led Development of 8-Member Alumni Advisory Board
- *"Kevin embodies the ideal of what it means to be a lifelong fraternity man... What began in the 1990s as a young man's promise to his brothers has evolved into a lifelong mission to uplift and strengthen every corner of the Sigma Nu experience. Since 1993, and especially with the re-founding of Theta Eta in 2006, Kevin has served in both official and unofficial capacities—pouring time, talent, and treasure into a community he helped rebuild from the ground up."* – Dr. Clint-Michael Reneau, Vice President, Northern Illinois University

Division Commander of the Year

This award is given to the Division Commander(s) who have provided years of service to the organization and have had special achievements noted during the past twelve months.

John P. Kotwicki)

Delta Alpha #1155

- Division Commander, New England, 2014-Present
- Chapter Advisor, Epsilon Theta Chapter (MIT), 2011-Present
- Alumni Advisory Board Chairman, Epsilon Theta Chapter AAB, 2010-Present
- *"John's willingness to invest fully in the development of collegiate and alumnus brothers across his Division is commendable. With more than 10 years of service to the New England Division he understands the needs and context of each collegiate chapter and volunteer group, allowing him to step in as the first line of support and assistance no matter the issue. Just this year he demonstrated that willingness and ability to assist through in-person and virtual means to chapters in need throughout the Division. That he accomplishes this so seamlessly without being an alumnus to any of these chapters is remarkable."* – Scott Smith (Central Arkansas), Director of Leadership Development, Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc.

House Corporation Officer of the Year

This award is given to the House Corporation Officer(s) who, through years of service, has been noted for outstanding work in developing a plan for renovation, upkeep and maintenance of the chapter home and its property, and in collaboration with chapter officers, members, alumni, and university administration in maintaining chapter home and property.

Paul “PK” D. Kissinger (Michigan)

Gamma Nu #1230

- Gamma Nu House Corporation Board Member, 2019-Present
- Gamma Nu Alumni Advisory Board Member, 2021-Present; Chapter Advisor and Chairman, 2025-Present
- Instrumental in ongoing maintenance of historic chapter home and driving force behind \$6 million renovation campaign.
- *“PK easily contributes 500 hours or more of his time to the chapter each year. He has supervised many projects at the house and has repeatedly rolled up his own sleeves to execute them in a highly professional manner. PK is a role model for alumni to follow in our fraternity, and a true example of a brother dedicated to Love, Honor, and Truth in all he does.”* – Michael Simonte (Michigan) and Arthur Simonetti (Michigan), Gamma Nu House Association Officers

Alumnus of the Biennium

This award celebrates an alumnus who, over the course of the Biennium, has demonstrated an outstanding record of support, sacrifice, and selflessness for the Legion of Honor.

Mark M. Mustoe (Kansas)

Nu #1486

- Nu Chapter House Corporation, 2020-present; President, 2022-present
- Re-envisioned House Director position, improving capacity to manage physical structure and house upkeep.
- Facilitated major capital campaign of \$4 million to renovate and enhance the Nu Chapter home, the historic Stubb’s Mansion
- Launched Nu Chapter’s inaugural Commander’s Dinner
- Facilitated collegiate chapter’s first ever group pilgrimage to Lexington.
- Six consecutive Rock Chapter Awards coincide with his volunteer service.
- *“Mark has done an outstanding job of reaching out and engaging on an ongoing basis all stakeholders in Nu Chapter...He is truly outstanding in including others. So, while he is improving things across the board, he is also engaging others to ensure the improvements are sustainable over a long period of time. Through this process, Mark is ensuring the foundation he is setting will result in ongoing excellence, even after that sad day comes when he steps aside.”* – Rodney Beeler, Nu (Kansas) House Corporation board member
- *“Mark is the epitome of a Sigma Nu. His organizational skills, follow-through, commitment, and likability make him an invaluable asset to our organization.”* – John Brax (Kansas), Commander, Nu Alumni Chapter