



# THE STEEL JACKET

# SIG



GAMMA UPSILON CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI AT MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY ★ FALL 2017

## TIME TO RECONNECT

The Gamma Upsilon House Corporation is excited to bring you the first version of our new alumni newsletter, which will be sent twice a year to keep you up to date on alumni and chapter news. In each issue, there will be an update on the state of the chapter, we will highlight the accomplishments and whereabouts of selected brothers, inform you of important dates, and much more. Our hope is that this will be the first step toward bringing alumni together and increasing awareness and involvement of our alumni.

*The Steel Jacket Sig* comes from the George Rifles, whose annual publication was entitled *Steeljacket*. The first edition was published in 1917, which was composed of 64 pages that included chapter officers, undergraduate members, and alumni names, along with their accomplishments and a history of the organization. We hope that our modern publications can continue to present Sigma Chi updates and history just as the original *Steeljacket* and that it can conjure fond memories at Mississippi State University and Sigma Chi, as well as promotes a sense of our continued brotherhood.

### Gamma Upsilon Celebrates 80 Years at MSU

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the founding of Gamma Upsilon at Mississippi State University. This is a significant milestone for our chapter, and we plan to celebrate on March 23-24, 2018, in Starkville.

You will find additional information on the following pages, and we hope you will join us.

My brotherly challenge to you as our loyal alumni is to get involved. We encourage you to reconnect with brothers, reach out to lost alumni and bring them back to the fold, get to know the current members, and give what you can. We will begin a renewed focus in the coming year on getting our alumni to give back financially, and we hope you will support us in our effort. You'll notice that the return address is in Kansas. We are very excited to have partnered with Pennington & Company in Kansas, who will assist us with our communications and fundraising.

Let us celebrate our 80th year with a renewed commitment to our brotherhood and the chapter that has given us so much. We welcome your questions, input, and involvement as we embark on the next 80 years of Gamma Upsilon!

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

## The Impact of Gamma Upsilon

### Brad Reeves '02 Encourages Alumni Involvement with Sigma Chi and MSU

The leadership opportunities afforded to **Bradley "Brad" Reeves '02** through his Sigma Chi membership at Mississippi State University prepared him for success in college and throughout his career. "I was drawn to Sigma Chi by the relationships formed during recruitment and the chapter's reputation on campus," Brad said. "Sigma Chi was my first opportunity to be involved in an organization with complete autonomy where the members determined the direction and successes of the group." From pledge to serving as Consul and Recruitment Chairman, he grew his leadership skills through his experiences with the chapter. "No matter the challenge or occasion, someone was always willing to step up for the team, whether it was Derby Days, Rush, or hosting social events," Brad stated. "I am always proud to see that Gamma Upsilon maintains its legacy at Mississippi State University as a leader among leaders."



bylaws. "Sigma Chi's self-governance structure along with demanding challenges led me to become interested in law and the legal system," Brad stated. "Sigma Chi taught me humility while building confidence in myself."

As National President of the Mississippi State University Alumni Association, Brad encourages alumni to reconnect by attending both university and Sigma Chi alumni events, such as Homecoming or All Sig Day. "Just being around the Sigma Chi house and meeting some of the members brings back memories and rekindles your appreciation for Sigma Chi," Brad said. He believes that maintaining a relationship with the university can provide a positive experience to reconnect past relationships and traditions. "Through Sigma Chi, I was fortunate to establish lifelong friendships with brothers who challenged me to be a better person, husband, and father," Brad stated. "I'm proud to be a Sigma Chi."

After graduating in 2002 with a degree in construction management and land development, Brad attended law school at the University of Mississippi. During that time, Brad served as a Sigma Chi Balfour Fellow and Eta Chapter advisor at Ole Miss. Brad is an attorney and partner at Randall, Segrest, Weeks, Reeves & Sones, which focuses on real estate law and closings throughout Mississippi. Brad's experiences in Sigma Chi fostered an interest in law through the chapter's governing processes and

Brad lives in Jackson with his wife, Mandy, and their children, Caroline (4) and Mason (1). He enjoys traveling, especially to Starkville for MSU athletic events, and rehabilitating properties when he finds free time. If you would like to reconnect with Brad, he can be reached at bradmreeves@gmail.com.



# The Leadership Behind the Brotherhood

## Chapter Bids Farewell to Outgoing Chapter Advisor Kane Overstreet '99, Welcomes Charlie Winfield '94

The chapter advisor role is a vital component in a chapter's overall success by presenting leadership and guidance to members. For more than 10 years, this role was filled by **Matthew "Kane" Overstreet '99**. His time as chapter advisor offered him a number of leadership experiences that have contributed to the chapter's accomplishments. Kane recalled memories of the 70th anniversary, Derby Days, chapter meetings, bid sessions, and watching members grow as men into adulthood. "Watching the brothers find their independence and strength as they prepared for life was remarkable," Kane stated. "I enjoyed witnessing brotherhood and relationships build throughout the years."

His successor, **Charles "Charlie" Winfield '94**, was excited to fill the position in 2015 and hopes to continue to guide members to uphold this tradition of excellence. "Through the transition, I tried to help the chapter by encouraging the active members to not only maintain respect for our chapter's history but also to strengthen their commitment to upholding the ideals of the fraternity," Charlie said. During his time as an undergraduate, Charlie served as Consul and Magister, which has prepared him to lead the chapter in their time of need. "Sigma Chi, like other fraternities, finds itself in a period of transition, through which it is modernizing its pledge program," Charlie stated. "I hope to continue to assist the



Kane Overstreet '99



Charlie Winfield '94

chapter, anticipate, respond, and overcome any challenges that might develop along the way."

Kane is confident that the new leadership will continue to the importance of academic excellence and university involvement. "My hope is that they will continue the tradition of producing great leaders," Kane said. "I want members to leave the university with close relationships and a love for the fraternity and its members."

Kane is thankful for his time as chapter advisor and believes in the chapter's ability to be prosperous. "Watching members grow and transform from boys to men was an absolute honor," Kane said. "I hope I was able to successfully show them what it means to live up to the Sigma Chi standards after graduating." Charlie anticipates the chapter's continual success and is certain that they will honor Sigma Chi's core values of friendship, justice, and learning. "Gamma Upsilon is blessed to have an outstanding group of young men," Charlie said. "The chapter leads the university's fraternities in both grades and charitable donations, and I know they will continue to accomplish great things at MSU." If you would like to contact Kane or Charlie, they can be reached at [kane.overstreet@gmail.com](mailto:kane.overstreet@gmail.com) and [cwinfield@winfieldlawfirm.com](mailto:cwinfield@winfieldlawfirm.com).

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

- Fisher Adkins** | Nashville, Tenn.
- John Nix Arledge** | Jackson, Miss.
- Luke Armstrong** | Flowood, Miss.
- Andrew Berry** | Madison, Miss.
- Jonathan Boone\*** | Madison, Miss.
- Ethan Brewer** | Cleveland, Miss.
- Robert Brown** | Columbus, Miss.
- Peyton Case** | Madison, Miss.
- Owen Childs** | Ripley, Miss.
- Walker Clayton\*** | Tupelo, Miss.
- Chase Coleman** | Madison, Miss.
- Blake Collins** | Madison, Miss.
- Carson Dargie** | Germantown, Tenn.
- Daniel Darwin\*** | Birmingham, Ala.
- Jack Davis** | Flowood, Miss.
- Logan Dowell** | Starkville, Miss.
- Ethan Evans** | Madison, Miss.
- Dalton Ford** | Columbus, Miss.
- JP Gathings** | Jackson, Miss.
- Beau Goss** | Memphis, Tenn.
- Tanner Graves\*** | Yazoo City, Miss.
- RJ Green** | Jackson, Miss.
- Charlie Greer** | Tupelo, Miss.
- Thomas Guest\*** | Madison, Miss.
- Jacob Haley** | Birmingham, Ala.
- Cayson Hankins** | Tupelo, Miss.

- Hayden Hankins** | Tupelo, Miss.
- Jack Hannon** | Columbus, Miss.
- Harrison Hawkins** | Tupelo, Miss.
- Peyton Haygood** | Peachtree City, Ga.
- Drew Jackson\*** | Starkville, Miss.
- John Jeffreys\*** | Jackson, Miss.
- Max Kirchgessner** | Gulf Breeze, Fla.
- Connor Martin** | Birmingham, Ala.
- Reed McIntosh** | Madison, Miss.
- Danny Morales** | Oxford, Miss.
- Adam Noland** | Clarksdale, Miss.
- Cody Oliver** | Petal, Miss.
- Swayze Pillow\*** | Greenwood, Miss.
- Jackson Prather** | Augusta, Ga.
- William Purvis\*** | Jackson, Miss.
- Grayson Quinn\*** | Greenwood, Miss.
- Noah Sasser\*** | Harrisville, Miss.
- Tanner Scoville** | Tupelo, Miss.
- Price Sessums\*** | Ridgeland, Miss.
- Carson Sharp\*** | Water Valley, Miss.
- Josh Stanford\*** | Grenada, Miss.
- Ben Stanzell** | Tupelo, Miss.
- Eiland Stebly\*** | Biloxi, Miss.
- Reid Stevens** | Starkville, Miss.
- Tyner Swedenburg\*** | Columbus, Miss.
- Powell Tabor** | West Point, Miss.

- Granlund Torjusen** | Pascagoula, Miss.
- Ethan Utterback** | Ocean Springs, Miss.
- Jack Vandevender\*** | Shuqualak, Miss.
- Nolan Walker\*** | Grenada, Miss.
- Robert Walker** | West Point, Miss.
- Brad Wall** | Ocean Springs, Miss.
- Reid Warren** | Madison, Miss.
- Ross Weeden\*** | Tupelo, Miss.
- Austin Williams** | Ocean Springs, Miss.
- Spencer Williamson\*** | Flora, Miss.
- Drew Wright** | Tupelo, Miss.
- Luke Yarborough** | Columbus, Miss.

\* Legacy





# BROTHERS WORK TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN GAMMA UPSILON LEGACY

## Chapter Recognized for Continued Excellence at Greek Workshop

Gamma Upsilon Chapter of Sigma Chi has enjoyed tremendous success over the last several months. Our philanthropic involvement, success in the classroom, and continued leadership have made Gamma Upsilon Chapter not only the premier fraternity at Mississippi State University, but one of the best Sigma Chi chapters.

### ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

In the spring semester, Gamma Upsilon Chapter achieved a 3.34 cumulative GPA, which was the second highest among Interfraternity Council fraternities. However, the chapter has had the highest GPA at the university for six of the last nine semesters. The chapter house provides a number of convenient amenities that contribute to our members' success, including a printer and various study spaces.

### PHILANTHROPICALLY FOCUSED

A crown achievement of Gamma Upsilon Chapter is our annual Derby Days, which is one of the most widely participated in philanthropic events at the university. This year, we donated \$92,000 to the Catch-A-Dream Foundation, which provides once-in-a-lifetime hunting and fishing experiences for children with life-threatening illnesses. We were blessed to have Catch-A-Dream child, Julia, and her family in attendance for the final event, which was attended by more than 3,000 students, parents, and members of the Starkville community.



Derby Daddy Andrew Walker '17 (left) and Consul Ben Sellers '18 (right) present a check to Dr. Marty Brunson, CEO of the Catch-A-Dream Foundation, and Catch-A-Dream child, Julia, and her parents.

### CHAPTER ACCOLADES

During the summer, the chapter sent representatives to both Grand Chapter in Providence, R.I., and Balfour Leadership Training Workshop in Bowling Green, Ohio. At Balfour, the chapter was honored to receive the Peterson Award, which is the highest award presented to chapters by the national fraternity. We were also recognized as a Legion of Honor chapter for our high academic achievements and were one of only six chapters nationwide that received both honors in 2016 and 2017.

### ALUMNI SUPPORT KEY TO UNDERGRADUATE SUCCESS

Some of our extraordinary members have had a number of notable successes. Our past Consul, **John Wesley Williamson '17**, was voted the IFC President of the Year and Mr. Mississippi State University, while **Layton Little '19** serves as the student association vice president. Gamma Upsilon Chapter has a successful reputation at the university, and the members are very proud of that standing and are committed to continuing that tradition. We thank alumni for their continued support and encourage you to stop by the house to meet our dedicated members.

In Hoc,  
**Ben Sellers '18**

Consul  
(228) 669-9822 | gammaupsilonconsul@gmail.com



Brothers at the Balfour Leadership Training Workshop in July 2017. From left: Tolar Purvis '19, Ben Sellers '18, Patrick Mallory '19, 70th Grand Consul Tommy Geddings '85, Will McGhee '18, and Miles Huff '18.



Brothers at the Grand Chapter in June. From left: Scott Ross '82, Miles Huff '18, Robert McRaney '56 and his wife, Samantha McRaney, Murry Falkner '19, Ben Sellers '18, and Grand Praetor Tony Thompson '92. Scott Ross and Robert McRaney were awarded the Significant Sig award.

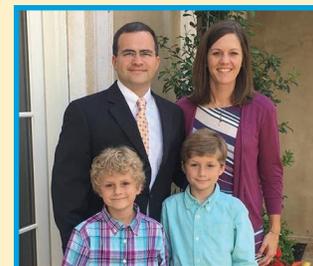
## Remembering Justin Cobb '97 and Brent Cobb '98

**Justin Cobb '97** and **Brent Cobb '98**, sons of Betsy and **Leonard Cobb '70**, entered Chapter Eternal within a month of each other. Justin died September 9, 2017, while jogging in his hometown of Meridian. His brother, Brent, died September 29, 2017, in a car accident while driving his family to visit his in-laws.



The late Justin Cobb '97 with his wife and children.

The strong arms of Sigma Chi are around Leonard and his family. Gamma Upsilon lost two men who exemplified the Jordan Standard and who carried their love of Sigma Chi and Mississippi State with them long after graduation. In the coming months, the chapter will announce ways that brothers may honor Justin and Brent. Until then, please pray for Justin's wife, Holli, and their two boys. Remember in prayer Brent's wife, Catherine, and their two sons. To Leonard and Betsy, the men of Sigma Chi offer our deepest sympathy and admiration for the men they raised. We give all honor to their names.



The late Brent Cobb '98 with his wife and children.

# Mark Your Calendar

## Gamma Upsilon's 80th Anniversary Celebration March 23-24, 2018

**Friday, March 23**

Reception at the home of MSU President  
**Mark Keenum '84** at 6 p.m.

**Saturday, March 24**

Lunch at the Sigma Chi house for  
Sigs and Sweethearts, followed by a  
ritual exemplification.

**George Bryan '66** will host a party  
that evening at Old Waverly.

For more information, visit  
[www.gammaupsilon80.com](http://www.gammaupsilon80.com).

Stay tuned for details in the coming months.

We hope you can join us to celebrate our  
legacy of leadership at Mississippi State!

In Hoc,

**Roy Ruby '61**

80th Anniversary Chairman

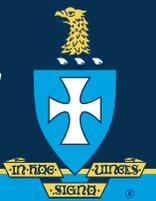
**Wade Overstreet '96**

80th Anniversary Coordinator



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*Attention: This newsletter is intended for alumni and parents. If your son is still attending Mississippi State University, he will receive a copy at the chapter house. If he has graduated, please send us his permanent address. Thank you.*

## ALUMNI UPDATE

### Chapter Eternal

**Robert Shelby Ladner '51** entered Chapter Eternal on March 13. He served his country in the United States Navy during World War II. Upon graduation from Mississippi State, Robert worked at Irwin B. Schwabe Manufacturing Company, where he retired. He was a resident of New Albany, Miss., and he is survived by his beloved wife of 65 years, Martha Coltharp, son, Robert Shelby Ladner Jr. of New Albany; and daughters, Cathy Kleber of Mount Pleasant, S.C., Becky Nieman of Memphis, Tenn., and Martha Sappington of New Albany. Surviving grandchildren are Ansley, Spencer, Dustin, Cameron, Dillon, Blair, Beth, Jenny, and Albert. Robert is also survived by numerous nephews, nieces, and cousins.

### Alumni News

**Carl Montgomery '61** is a partner and attorney at Montgomery McGraw and lives in Canton, Miss., with his wife, Margaret. E-mail: [bmontgomery@montgomerymcgraw.com](mailto:bmontgomery@montgomerymcgraw.com)

**Darr Sullivan '63** lives in Pass Christian, Miss., with his wife, Nancy, and they have two children, Fred III and Randy. He retired from the U.S. Army in 1984 as a lieutenant colonel.

**Dan Donald Jr. '67** is a chairman for JD Bank and his grandson, Skyler, is a freshman at MSU. E-mail: [1yums@att.net](mailto:1yums@att.net)

**Sam Cox III '70** has been in private practice as a physician at Memphis Midsouth for 39 years. He has three children, Janet, Ann, and Sam, as well as two grandchildren. He lives in Memphis, Tenn., and enjoys bicycling, swimming, and traveling. E-mail: [sjcoxiii@aol.com](mailto:sjcoxiii@aol.com)

**Ross Crain Jr. '72** opened Tallassee Rehab, which is an outpatient therapy practice, in March 1998 and sold it to his son in 2012. He enjoys spending time with his seven grandchildren. E-mail: [jcrain8535@aol.com](mailto:jcrain8535@aol.com)

**Sam Hailey '98** is in his 20th year at Madison-Ridgeland Academy, where he is the middle school principal, associate athletic director, and play-by-play announcer for football and basketball. He lives in Madison, Miss., with his wife, Lauren. E-mail: [rosshailey@me.com](mailto:rosshailey@me.com)

**Matthew Thompson '01** is the owner of Thompson Law Firm, which is a three attorney family firm that serves the entire state of Mississippi. He is an adjunct professor at MC Law, where he teaches domestic relations/family law. William is also the author of *Mississippi Divorce, Alimony, and Child Support with Forms 2016-17* edition, a Thompson Reuters publication. He lives in Ridgeland, Miss., with his wife, Karen, and their two children. E-mail: [matthew@bowtielawyer.ms](mailto:matthew@bowtielawyer.ms)



*Ted Kendall '58, Michael "Sykes" Heard '13, and Randall Weems '12 at the 17th annual Jackson area metro golf tournament reception. Each year, participants enjoy a round of golf at Ted Kendall's Halifax Holes followed by a steak dinner at the stockyard.*

## Connect with Gamma Upsilon Online



[www.sigmachimsu.com](http://www.sigmachimsu.com)



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Please join our alumni Facebook group:  
[Mississippi State Sigma Chi Official Alumni Page](#)