



Sigma Nu Fraternity

Best Practices for Organizing an Advisory Board Call with Parents

Alumni Engagement Series Webinar

Today's Presenters

Todd Denson (Nicholls State)

-- **Director of Alumni Advisory Programs**

Bill Geddy (Georgia Southern)

-- **Past Alumni Advisory Board Chairman (Theta Kappa)**

-- **Southeast Beta Division Commander**



Bill Geddy

Theta Kappa



- **Sigma Nu Chapter Advisor of the Year Winner**
- **Sigma Nu Alumnus of the Biennium**
- **Past Theta Kappa Alumni Advisory Board Chairman**
- **Southeast Beta Division Commander**

Overview

- **Parents Call Organization**
 - **Pre and Post Call Communication**
- **Sigma Nu Fraternity Education**
 - **Sigma Nu Terminology**
 - **No Hazing Policy/Alcohol Policy**
 - **National and Local History**
- **Membership Expectations**
 - **Candidate Education/LEAD**
 - **Financial Obligations**
- **Pilgrimage to Lexington**
- **Resources for Parents**
- **Q & A**





Parents Call Organization

- **Call Timing Best Practices**
- **Call Organization Best Practices**
- **Who Participates in the Call**
- **Information Provided to Parents in Advance**
- **Agenda**
- **Post Call Follow Up**

EXCELLING
WITH HONOR



Making the Call

Thank you!

- For joining tonight
- **Allowing your son(s) to join & participate**
- **Your commitment to the development & education of your son**
- **For participating as a stakeholder in our future**
- **This will be fast & furious – please ask questions**

Our Call Agenda

- **Introductions & opening comments**
- **Your points of contact at Sigma Nu**
- **Sigma Nu Fraternity – our history, traditions, and heroes**
- **Our chapter at GSU – what does it take & how much**
- **Comments & questions**



Introduce Volunteers

Chapter Advisor

Bill Geddy, ΘK 219



- Chapter Advisor since 2008
- Advises chapter leaders; interfaces with GSU FSL
- Macon, GA; business in Statesboro
- VP, Sales & Marketing (Tech sector); Retired Army Officer
- Grand Officer; Director, Educational Foundation
- Connect with me: <http://www.linkedin.com/in/billgeddy>.
- **Why am I still involved?**

Chapter Advisor

Evan Winebarger, ΘK 754



- Chairman, AAB & Chapter Advisor
- Advisor since 2018; Past Commander (2013)
- Past General Fraternity Staff Member (6 years)
- Leads & Recruits Advisory Team
- Focus: Leaders, Recruitment, & Philanthropy
- Atlanta, GA; Senior Account Executive

Advisor, Alumni Board

Cody Doolittle, ΘK 842



- Advisor (to our Marshal)
- Focus: Candidate experience & program
- Insurance Industry
- Birmingham, AL; Client Relations Manager



Introduce Student Officers

Commander

Connor Kinard, ΘK 1068



- Commander is the “President” of our Chapter
- Joined & initiated in Fall 2021
- Previously Lt. Commander, attended CoC 2024
- Focus: Lead Chapter, interface with school/alumni
- Carrollton, GA; Construction Engineering

Marshal

Brian Pickering, ΘK 1084



- Marshal is the “Candidate Educator”
- Joined & initiated in Fall 2021
- Manages & educates the candidate class
- Follows a developed & approved program
- Suwanee, GA; Construction Management

Sigma Nu Fraternity Terms

- Candidate
- Brother
- Commander
- Lt. Commander
- Marshal
- LEAD
- Induction
- Initiation
- Big Brother
- Little Brother
- Community.edu
- FSL
- National
- Consultants
- Alumni
- Alumni Chapter
- AAB
- House Corporation
- Rock Chapter
- Pursuit of Excellence
- Dues
- Chapter Advisor
- Executive Director
- Foundation

No Hazing!

- **Founded in 1869 in direct opposition to hazing**
- **Only national fraternity founded against hazing**
- **Other key points of safety:**
 - We DO NOT purchase or serve alcohol (since 1988). BYOB.
 - Hard alcohol (>15%) is not allowed at events or on property (2019).
 - We have a time-tested Risk Reduction Policy to reduce risks, educate members, and provide a safe social & living environment (1988).

Our Commitment to You & Your Son:

We, the advisors, the chapter officers, and membership, commit to you to the five objects of Sigma Nu:

1. **HONOR.** To govern each act by a high sense of honor.
2. **FRIENDSHIP.** To bind together all members by ties of true and lasting friendship (brotherhood).
3. **ASSISTANCE.** To protect, assist, advance, and encourage each other by every honorable means.
4. **UNITY.** To have plans for guidance and unity in action.
5. **COMMUNICATION.** To gather, to propose, discuss and agree upon these plans at meetings.

Further we commit to:

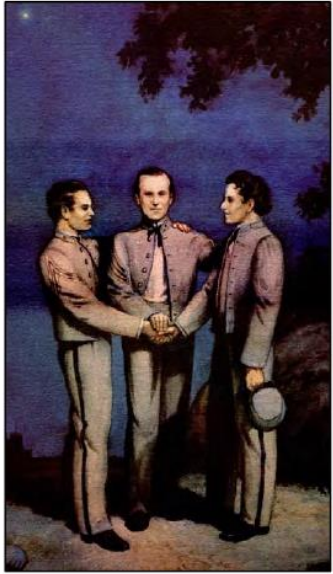
1. **NO HAZING** – period! Sigma Nu was founded against hazing in 1869 – that tradition continues.
2. **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT** – provide opportunities for the young men of our chapter to learn, develop, and practice their leadership skills that will serve them the rest of their lives.
3. **EDUCATIONAL ASSET** – we pledge that Sigma Nu will be an academic and educational asset to your son in college and after – not the reverse. It will not be easy, but it will be rewarding.

Our Fraternity – The Legion of Honor

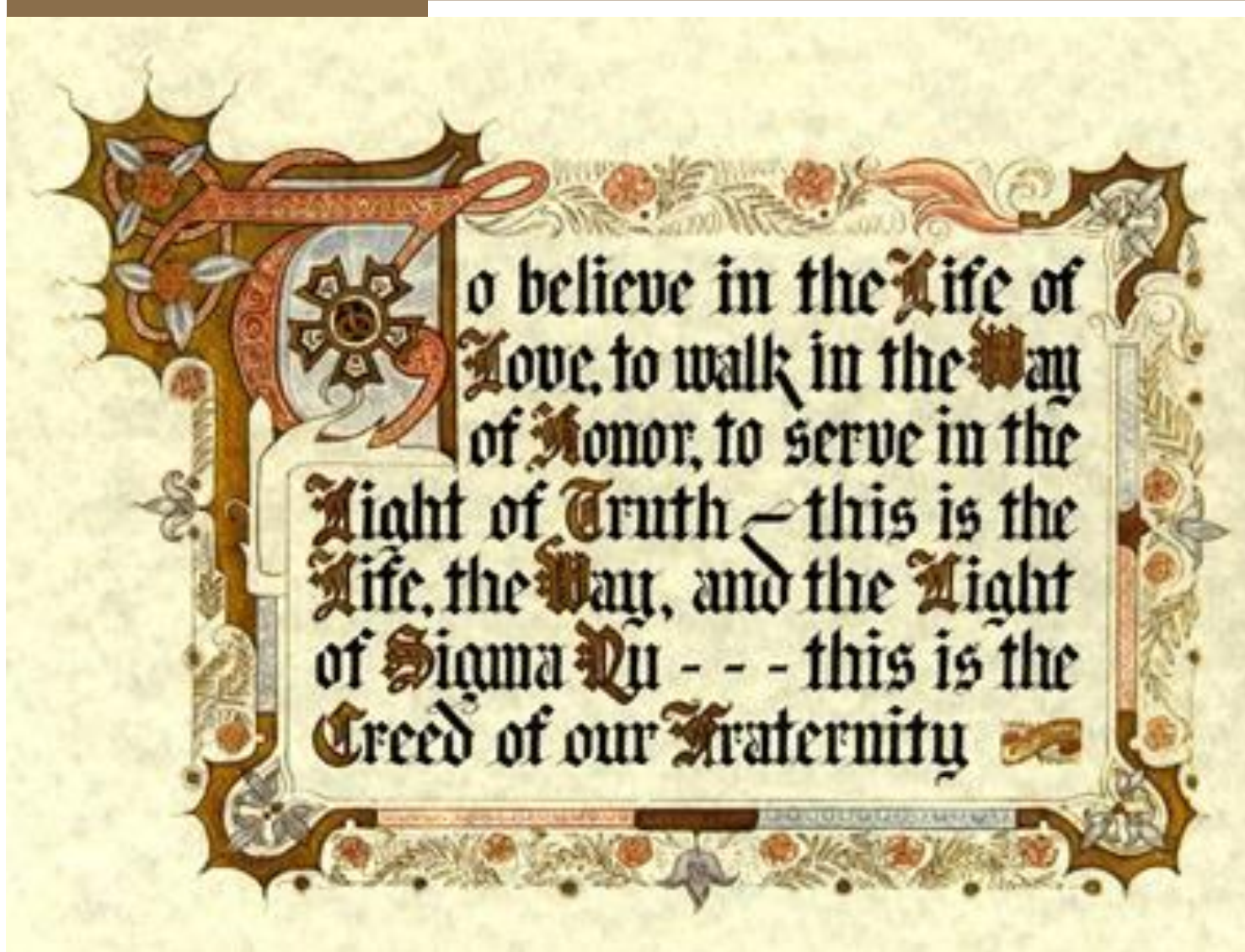


- Sigma Nu Fraternity
- Originally the “Legion of Honor”
- Founded January 1, 1869, at VMI
- Founded in opposition to hazing
- Founded on the Honor Principle
- Lexington hosts the VMI & W&L
- HQs is in Lexington since 1957

Our History



- Founders met on a limestone outcropping known as "The Rock"
- Origins as early as 1866, but organized in October 1868
- Public on January 1, 1869
- Opposed to hazing & servitude
- Founded on the Honor Principle with the defining principles of Love, Honor, & Truth
- North America's first "Honor Fraternity"
- ATΩ & KA Order were founded in Lexington



The Creed of Sigma Nu Fraternity



The Sigma Nu Vision & Mission

Vision

Excelling with Honor

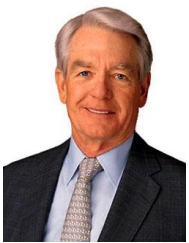
Mission

To develop ethical leaders inspired by the principles of Love, Honor, and Truth.

To foster the personal growth of each man's mind, heart, and character.

To perpetuate lifelong friendships and commitment to the Fraternity.

Our Fraternity – Some Notable Alumni



Charles Schwab



Tom Johnson



Bob Barker



Paul Rudd



Harrison Ford



Bill Barr



Trent Lott



Billy Hickman



Al Michaels



Joe Buck



Curt Menefee



Mark Schlabach



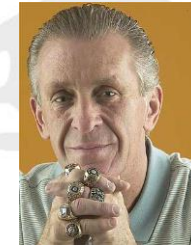
Archie Manning



Eli Manning



Bear Bryant



Pat Riley

Ordinary men in their collegiate experience develop into extraordinary men

100s & 1000s of extraordinary men • <https://bit.ly/notable-sn-alumni>

Sigma Nu at Georgia Southern



- **Theta Kappa Chapter**
- Sigma Nu's 171st Chapter
- Founded November 17, 1967
- Chartered May 10, 1970
- 1st house built & completed on Greek Row
- Opened February 1, 1989
- Over 1100 initiates
- Over 100 collegiate members

Fall 2024 Candidate Class



- **Theta Kappa Chapter**
- Inducted on Sun., Sep. 1, 2024
- Met with Chapter Advisor for over an hour that morning.
- Initiation is:
- Good geographical dispersion and diversity across Georgia
- Mostly freshmen, but some sophomores and juniors
- Lots of boots

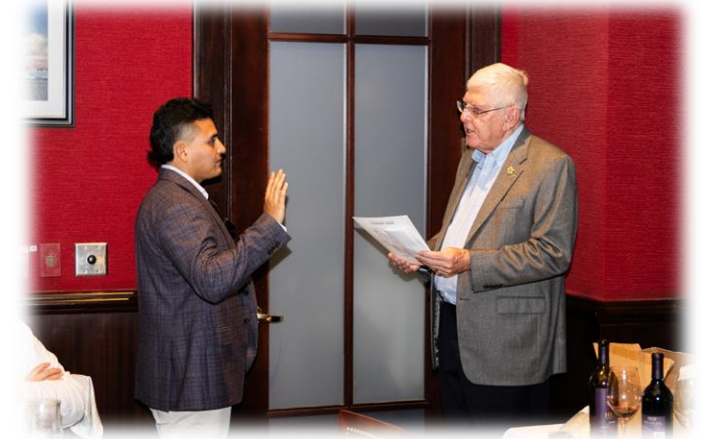
The Candidate Period

- Student first!
- 8 Week Program
- No hazing – No alcohol – No shenanigans
- Designed to educate candidates to be good members & citizens
- Program is developed by chapter, reviewed, and approved by AAB, FSL, and our National HQs. It is filled with content developed by Sigma Nu HQs.
- Violations or issues are investigated by GSU's Student Conduct and/or our National HQs.
- Positive points system. Initiation is:



Requirements for Sigma Nu

- Complete the Candidate Program.
- Attend required training & LEAD sessions.
- Complete community.edu (National on-line program).
- Be current in dues. Pay your initiation fee. Pay on time.
- Maintain academic standards: Goal is 3.0 or better. Minimum is 2.75.
- Minimum number of points.
- Positive points system. Initiation is:
- Be a gentleman – DON'T be that guy – DON'T be a jackass



LEAD: Candidate Education & Member Development



LEAD is Sigma Nu's award-winning ethical leadership development program. In alignment with Sigma Nu's continuing efforts "To develop ethical leaders..." we offer the LEAD Program as a tool to assist our membership in both gaining the knowledge and developing the skills and abilities needed to be an effective and ethical leader for life.

The LEAD Program is a comprehensive ethical leadership development program designed to ensure participants "learn by doing." LEAD is tied to the 4 years of college with 4 phases and becomes the basis, along with other experiences, in the Sigma Nu co-curricular transcript. Phase 1 is candidate education – the remaining phases are member development and life after college.

LEAD, Phase 1, for Candidates

- Orientation
- Session 1: Fraternity
- Session 2: History
- Session 3: Leadership & Working in Groups
- Session 4: Sigma Nu: International Organization & Chapter Operations
- Session 5: Risk Reduction with community.edu
- Session 6: Values & Ethics
- Session 7: Alcohol Misuse Prevention
- Session 8: Leadership: The Basics
- Session 9: Project Management
- Session 10: Ritual
- Session 11: Community Service (Optional)
- Session 12: Time Management (Optional)

Member Expectations

- Be a good student – maintain >2.75 GPA
- Participate in Monthly LEAD & All-Chapter LEAD
- Pay your dues in a timely manner
- Attend meetings, socials, intramurals, GS sporting events, and other
- Find places in the chapter to be involved – committees or offices – be a contributing, active member – take advantage of what we have to offer
- Participate in non-Sigma Nu organizations – expand your horizons
- Be a gentleman – DON'T be that guy – DON'T be a jackass



The Positive Impact of Sigma Nu

RESEARCH SHOWS THE VALUE OF MEMBERSHIP

Over the past four years, from the team at Gallup — the leader in research and analysis — to university faculty members, researchers have worked with the North American Interfraternity Conference (NIC), in partnership with the Foundation for Fraternal Excellence (FFE), to conduct and widely share the results of more than 20 studies to guide advocacy efforts and the work of fraternities.



STUDIES SHOW:

Fraternities are an accelerator for success in college and beyond.

Fraternities capitalize on students' time outside of the classroom by preparing men for success in college and in their futures far beyond what their peers experience. Because of higher expectations and the support and network fraternities provide, members experience greater gains in learning and graduate at higher rates than their peers. 83% of members say their confidence in their leadership skills increased because of their membership.

FRATERNITY MEN ARE...

- ▶ **3x** more likely to obtain an **internship** while in college
- ▶ **Almost 2x** as likely to have a **job** waiting for them when they graduate
- ▶ **2x** as likely to encourage others to **attend** their alma mater
- ▶ **5x** as likely to **give back** financially to their alma mater
- ▶ **Almost 5x** as likely to be **satisfied** with their lives as alumni
- ▶ **More likely** to **intervene** when a friend/peer is behaving in an unsafe manner

Fraternity men are socially conscious and believe in promoting safety and inclusion.

Considering high-risk behaviors, including sex, alcohol, and hazing, fraternity men believe in and promote safer and more inclusive environments than nonmembers. They understand the definition of sexual assault, report drinking less and with moderation, and choose not to participate in hazing because they do not want to cause emotional harm, it goes against their values, and wanting to be respected by others.

Fraternities create lifelong connections to the campus, community, and friends.

Fraternities empower students to create a strong support system. Members are more engaged inside and outside of the classroom than their peers — they report feeling more supported by their faculty, and nearly half serve in leadership roles across campus. They're also more connected to their local communities, with research showing they spend significantly more time volunteering than non-affiliated students.

Fraternity members experience stronger mental health.

Research shows fraternity membership connects men to the university in a way nonmembers simply don't experience. They're more satisfied as students and alumni and are more likely to recommend and give back to their alma maters. Research shows that this connection can create a strong sense of belonging, leading members to have more positive mental health and less anxiety and depression than other students.

Fraternity members hold their peers accountable.

Research shows that fraternity men are more likely to intervene in higher-risk situations than those not affiliated and that they are more comfortable in providing accountability in the areas of academics, sexual relationships, professional/career goals, personal goals, and hazing. Additionally, they cite a greater responsibility to support the personal and professional growth of their friends/peers — a proof point that affirms the meaning of true brotherhood. ✨

Citations: Peer Accountability, Plaid, 2022; Fostering a More Safe and Inclusive Environment for all Members, VectorSolutions, 2022; Fraternities & Values of Single Sex Experience, UT-FERC, 2021; The Greek Experience Revisited, Pike, 2020; Perspectives on Fraternity and Sorority Life: Positive Youth Development, Everfi, 2021; Fraternities and Sororities: Experiences and Outcomes in College, Work and Life, Gallup, 2022; Mental Health and Wellness for Fraternity and Sorority Members; Biddix, Assalone and Grace, 2020; Greek values and attitudes: A comparison with independents; Baier and Whipple, 2020

The Positive Impact of ΣΝ

- Read the Gallup Study research
- Credible, authentic research
- Download the study & articles
- Go to: <https://bit.ly/sn-positive-impact>.

“Fraternities are an accelerator for success in college and beyond”

The Positive Impact of Sigma Nu

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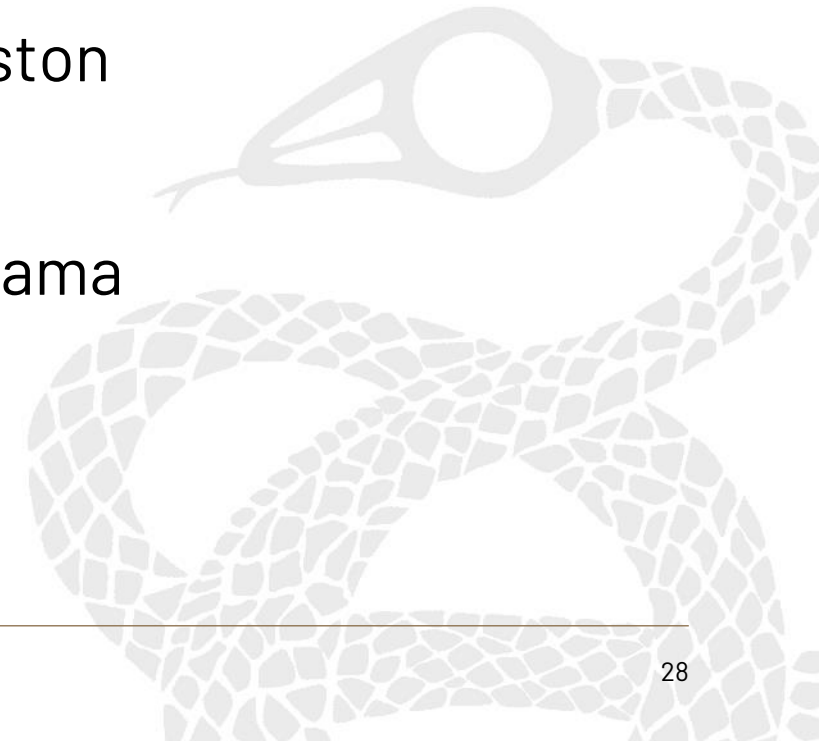
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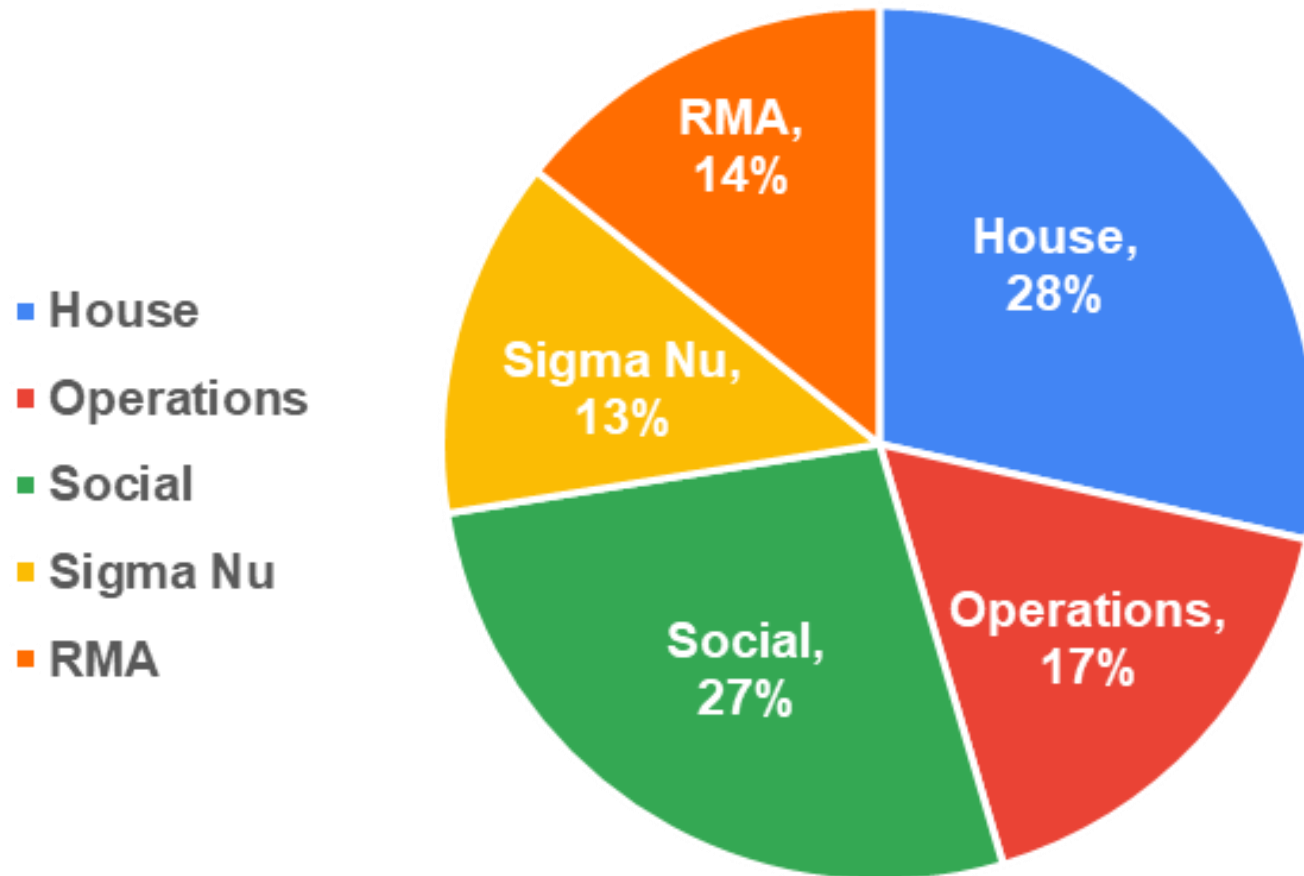
- Theta Kappa Commander & Marshal

Other Sigma Nu Chapters Nearby

- UGA
- Mercer
- Georgia Tech
- North Georgia
- Kennesaw State
- Columbus State
- Jacksonville University
- University of Florida
- University of Tennessee
- University of South Carolina
- Clemson
- College of Charleston
- Auburn
- University of Alabama
- Ole Miss
- LSU



Sigma Nu (GSU) Dues – Where do they go?



- House Expenses – 28%:
 - Parlor Fees to House Corp.
 - Utilities, Internet, etc.
 - Cleaning & Supplies
- Operations Expenses – 17%:
 - Committee expense (not Social)
 - Candidate & Brotherhood Expenses
- Social Expenses – 27%:
 - Parties, bands, & security
 - Tailgates, Game day, & major events
- Sigma Nu (HQs) Expenses – 13%:
 - Candidate & Initiation Fees
 - Brother's Dues to HQs
 - Educational Programming
 - Conclave savings
- RMA Expenses – 14%
- Savings: 5% - 10% set aside
- Expenses: Fixed – 37%; Variable: 63%

Sigma Nu (GSU) Dues – How Much Are they?

Sigma Nu Dues – What Members Pay

- Our dues are: \$1,100/semester; \$250/summer
 - Summer: \$850 (~65%)
 - Early Fall: \$500 (~35%)
 - Spring: \$1,100
 - Candidate: \$1,000 (\$125 to SNHQs included)
- Expectations:
 - Paid on time
 - Payment plans available, if approved
 - Dues account online – available to parents
 - Managed w/Greek Capital Management
- Subject to change based on budget
- We have a treasurer, assistant treasurer, finance committee, and 2 finance advisors

Sigma Nu Fees – Paid by Chapter from Dues

- Sigma Nu Fees paid out:
 - Candidate Fee: \$125 (one time, life)
 - Initiation Fee: \$250 (one time, life)
 - Initiate Dues: \$90/brother/semester
 - Conclave savings: \$1,500/chapter/semester
 - RMA: \$157.50/semester/member
- House Fees & Expenses:
 - Parlor Fee: \$100/semester/member
 - Room Rent per Semester (residents only):
 - \$2,000/single occupancy/semester
 - \$1,200/double occupancy/semester
 - Utilities – paid by chapter & occupants
 - House is open during summer based on needs

Sigma Nu (GSU) Dues – When are they due?

Sigma Nu Dues – What Candidates Pay

- \$1,000 for the Candidate Period
- Pay up front or in installments (if approved)
- Typical Candidate Payment Plan
 - \$250 by September 1
 - \$125 paid online to SNHQ – Candidate Fee
 - \$125 paid to chapter by check or online
 - \$250 by September 20 to chapter*
 - \$250 by October 11 to chapter*
 - \$250 by October 25 to chapter*
 - *Due paid before initiation – requirement
 - \$250 goes to SNHQ for Initiation Fee
 - The initiation fee is paid from dues

Candidate & Member Dues Expectations

- Paid on time – teaching good financial habits
- Payment plans available, if approved
- Dues account online – available to parents
- Managed w/Greek Capital Management
- 30-60-90 Day Policy

- Other fees & policies:
 - Chapter reviews and approves budget each term.
 - Most, if not all, fees from IFC, GSU, & Sigma Nu are paid from dues by the chapter.
 - Occasionally there is a supplemental fee for a formal, beach trip, or other trips.

Major Events

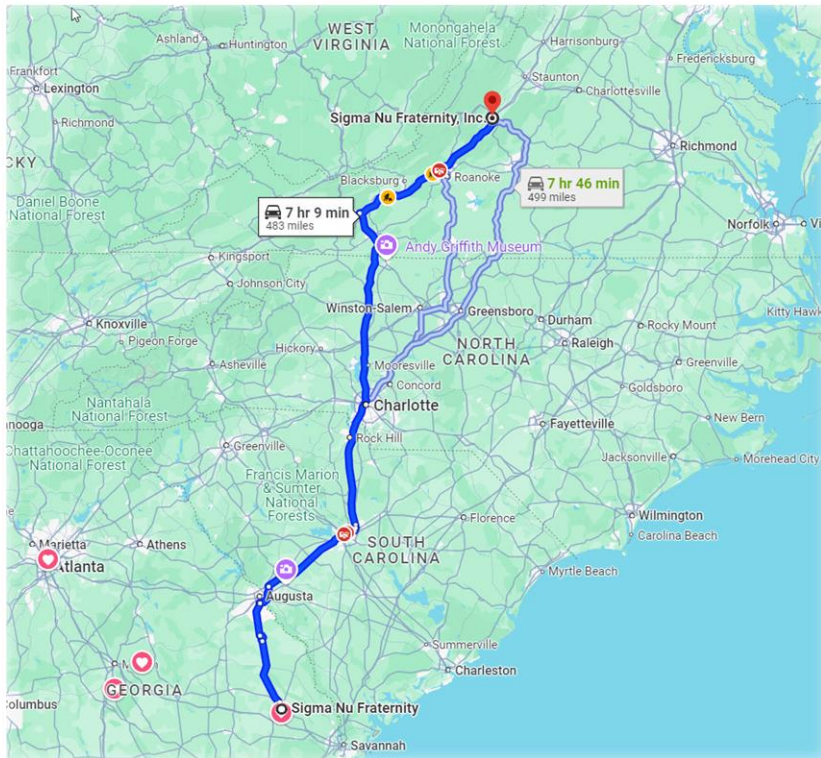
- Football Weekends
- Homecoming
- Alumni Weekend
- Away games
- Parent's Weekend(s)
- Formal
- Socials
- Island Party
- Beach Trip
- Mountain Trip
- Intramurals
- Community Service
- Brotherhood events

Sigma Nu Fall Parent's Weekend



- November 15-17 – Game is on Sat., 11/16
- Different Weekend than GSU's Weekend
- GS Eagles vs. Troy University
- Tailgate at the House
- We hope the congestion will be less and hotels will be cheaper.
- **We welcome your attendance!**

Candidate Class Pilgrimage to Lexington VA



- Sep. 27-29, 2024 (Fri-Sun)
- Honor our **history, traditions, & heroes**
- Lexington (VMI) is the birthplace of Sigma Nu and where our National HQs is located
- Travel by Motorcoach
- Stay on our Sigma Nu HQs Campus
- Packed with educational sessions and tours
- Paid for by our alumni through the Sigma Nu Educational Foundation



Our HQs Shrine & Campus

Lexington, VA near VMI & W&L

Pilgrimage funded by alumni & friends
















- Theta Kappa Development Fund
 - Sigma Nu Educational Foundation
 - Funded by Chapter alumni & friends
 - Charitable Giving Fund (501c3) like a church, university, or charity
- Our fund focuses on:
 - Scholarships
 - Leadership experiences
 - Pilgrimages for candidates/members
- We believe that the pilgrimage is:
 - Foundational education of history, traditions, and heroes
 - Great start and a transformational start in the Sigma Nu journey



Sigma Nu
**EDUCATIONAL
FOUNDATION**

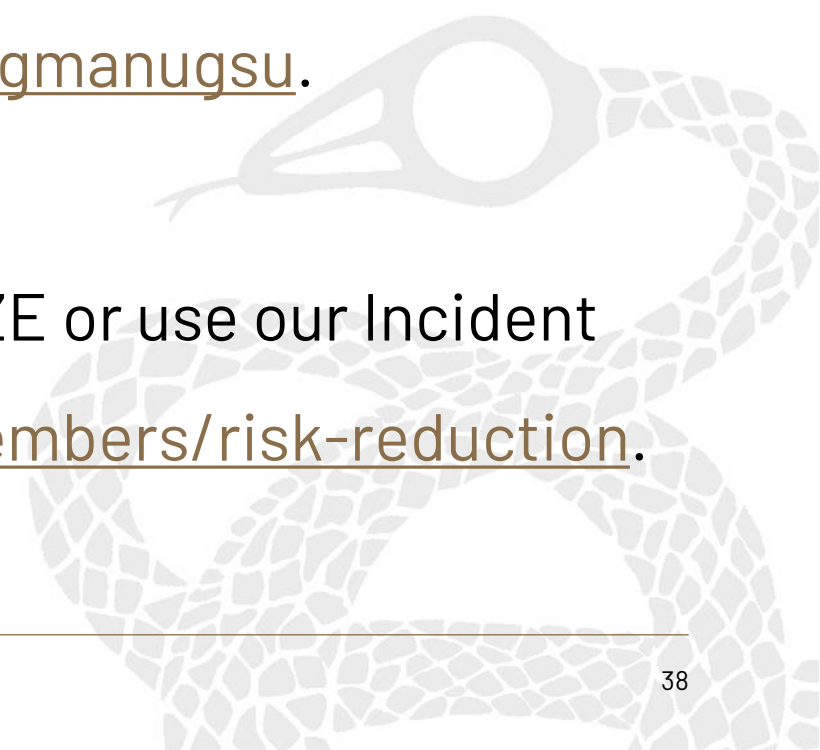


GSU's Sigma Nu Alumni Advisory Board (AAB)

 <p>Evan Winebarger Chairman, AAB / Co-Chapter Advisor ΘK 754, Past Commander & Past Staff Member Atlanta, GA M: 770-853-7796 E: evwinebar@gmail.com</p>	 <p>Joshua Calhoun Advisor, Recorder & Alumni Operations ΘK 804; Past Recorder/LEAD Officer Atlanta, GA M: 706-366-2440 E: joshua.blair.calhoun@gmail.com</p>	 <p>Zach Geurin Advisor, Chaplain & Brotherhood Development ΘK 823; Past Commander & IFC Officer Atlanta, GA M: 404-229-3944 E: ZGeurin25@gmail.com</p>
 <p>Marshall Richards Advisor, Lt. Commander & Governance ΘK 847; Past Commander & Lt. Commander Canton, GA M: 404-414-3185 E: mrichardso4946@gmail.com</p>	 <p>Cody Doolittle Advisor, Marshal & Candidate Program ΘK 842; Past Marshal Birmingham, AL M: 478-361-1438 E: cody.w.doo@gmail.com</p>	 <p>Adam Clay Advisor, Philanthropy & Campus Programs ΘK 810; Past Commander/IFC President Cincinnati, OH M: 912-536-1928 E: aclay10@hotmail.com</p>
 <p>Alex Guilloux Advisor, Treasurer & Financial Management ΘK 952; Past Commander & Treasurer Jacksonville, FL M: 941-483-6808 E: alexisguilloux@yahoo.com</p>	 <p>Avi Patel Advisor, Treasurer & Financial Management ΘK 986; Past Commander & Treasurer Atlanta, GA M: 229-251-3420 E: avipatel2018@gmail.com</p>	 <p>Connor Hamil Advisor, Member Recruitment ΘK 875; Past Commander & Recruitment Atlanta, GA M: 770-570-7493 E: hamilconnor@gmail.com</p>
 <p>Jack Radcliffe Advisor, Member Recruitment ΘK 1032; Past Commander & Recruitment Atlanta, GA M: 678-756-1130 E: radcliffejack123@gmail.com</p>	 <p>Brady Kelly Advisor, Recruitment & Pursuit of Excellence ΘK 978, Past Recruitment Atlanta, GA M: 678-994-1632 E: bradykelly44@gmail.com</p>	 <p>Bill Geddy Co-Chapter Advisor / Alumni Development ΘK 219, Past Commander; Division CDR Macon, GA M: 404-375-9249 E: wbgeddy@outlook.com</p>
 <p>Wray Upchurch Worthy Commander, Alumni Chapter ΘK 171; Past Advisor, Past Treasurer Greensboro, GA M: 678-485-5173 E: wupchurch@bellsouth.net</p>	 <p>Brent Myers President, House Corporation ΘK 295; Past Advisor Gainesville, GA M: 404-803-1536 E: bmyers@di-construction.com</p>	 <p>John Austin Advisor, Risk Reduction & Legal ΘK 120; Past Commander; Attorney & Mediator Sandy Springs, GA M: 678-613-5601 E: jaustin@austinsparks.com</p>

Resources & Social Media

- Website: www.sigmanugsu.com
- National website: www.sigmanu.org
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/sigmanugsu>.
 - You are welcome to join our group.
- Fraternity's Anti-Hazing Hotline at 1-888-NOT-HAZE or use our Incident Form at: <https://www.sigmanu.org/collegiate-members/risk-reduction>.



Deliverables to You After This Call



Bill



Evan



Cody



Connor



Brian

- **Email** sent to all parents
- Fall 2024 Parents Welcome Memo (PDF)
- 2024-25 Sigma Nu GSU Parents Call PPT (PDF)
- SN-GSU Advisor Contacts 20240801 (PDF)
- SN-GSU Officer Contacts 20240801 (PDF)
- **Invitation** to attend Parents' Weekend or any time you are at Georgia Southern.
- **Connect** with the advisors. You have our contact information as well as the officers.

End With...

- **Thank you!**
- **Contact Information**
 - **Alumni Advisory Board Members**
 - **Student Officers**





Questions?





Sigma Nu Fraternity

Contact Information

Todd Denson
Director of Alumni Advisory Programs
540-600-3019
todd.denson@sigmanu.org

Resource Links:

[Alumni Best Practices Library](#)
[Theta Kappa Chapter Website](#)
[Sigma Nu's Risk Reduction Policy](#)

Bill Geddy (Georgia Southern)
Southeast Beta Division Commander
wbgeddy@outlook.com