

# 2024 Merit Award Recipients

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## Collegiate Awards

### Man & Scholar of the Year

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

#### **Emilio D. Ferrara, IV (Georgia)**

#### **Mu #2815 / Alpha #701**

- 3.99 GPA in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- Lt. Commander, 2022; 150th Anniversary Committee Chairman, 2022–2023
- Head of Fundraising & Corporate Sponsorships – 2022 Jam for Cam philanthropy which raised \$180,000
- IFC President, 2023; Collegiate Advisor to the Fraternity’s High Council, 2023
- UGA Foundation Fellow and Stamps Scholarship recipient, Barry Goldwater Scholar, Rhodes Scholar finalist
- Phi Beta Kappa, Order of Omega, Omicron Delta Kappa, and Blue Key National Honor Societies
- Dean William Tate Honor Society, Gridiron Secret Society, SPHINX, and Order of the Greek Horsemen
- UGA Male Leader Among Leaders and UGA Student of the Year
- Eagle Scout
- *“I would place Emilio firmly in the top 1% of all students I have engaged with through undergraduate teaching and research... Society needs more intersectional individuals like Emilio to make big changes and breakthroughs in established sectors that have been doing the same old thing with incremental success.”* – Dr. Kimberly Klonowski, Associate Professor of Cellular Biology
- *“He is an extremely mature, articulate, personable, and highly motivated individual, and, simply put, he is an exceptional student.”* – Dr. Michael Adams, Professor of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, and Microbiology

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## Athlete of the Year

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

### **J. Addison Beam (Appalachian State)**

#### **Kappa Epsilon #698**

- 3.22 GPA in Marketing
- Alumni Relations Chairman, 2020–2022
- Mental Health Ambassador
- Eagle Scout
- All Sun Belt 3rd Team (only the third in school history)
- Appalachian State's first medalist in a spring event in 10+ years
- Two-time Sun Belt Player of the Week, in a five-week span (school record)
- #2 all-time lowest stroke average in school history
- *"Addison shows the true skills of a great leader. He always had encouraging words for his teammates, and he had the maturity to do the 'right thing' when no one was looking. After every trip, Addison was always the last player to leave the parking lot as he wanted to make sure all the players had everything they needed and to make sure that I was okay. I cannot think of a better recipient for this award, as Addison truly exhibits the characteristics of a true champion."* – Alan Cress, Appalachian State Head Men's Golf Coach

## 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 2023 and July 2024.

### **Caleb A. Covarrubias (Houston)**

#### **Zeta Chi #1004 / Alpha #700**

- 3.20 GPA in Finance
- Commander, 2023
- Marshal, 2022
- Alumni Relations Chairman, 2022
- Collegiate Advisor to the Fraternity's High Council, 2023
- Order of Omega
- Student Veterans of America
- Army National Guard, 2017–present
- Service Citations – Texas Medal of Merit, National Defense Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Commendation Medal, and the Army Achievement Medal
- *"What truly stands out about Caleb is his unwavering integrity and reliability. He consistently followed through on his commitments, demonstrating a level of trustworthiness and dependability. This was evident in our overall operational success that was recovering from the detriments caused by the pandemic...Brother Covarrubias was a trusted partner in developing the chapter and we could not function as a board as efficiently as we did without*

*having an Eminent Commander that has the qualities listed previously.” – Tanner Miller, Zeta Chi (Houston)  
Chapter Advisor*

**Emilio D. Ferrara, IV (Georgia)****Mu #2815 / Alpha #701**

- 3.99 GPA in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- Lt. Commander, 2022; 150th Anniversary Committee Chairman, 2022-2023
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- *“He is an extremely mature, articulate, personable, and highly motivated individual, and, simply put, he is an exceptional student.” – Dr. Michael Adams, Professor of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, and Microbiology*

**G. Dare Lovett (Oklahoma State)****Epsilon Epsilon #2726 / Alpha #702**

- 3.49 GPA in Agribusiness
- Commander, 2023
- Kitchen Steward, 2022
- Recorder, 2021
- Recruitment Team, 2022 and 2023
- Temple Classic Chairman, 2023-2024 – sand volleyball philanthropic event raising \$50,000 for charity
- Greek Show Director, 2023-2024
- Order of Omega
- Catholic Pokes, member and Bible study leader
- Greek Discovery Day group leader
- Undergraduate Research Assistant, OSU Willard Sparks Beef Research Center
- *“Dare is committed to the chapter doing what is right over what is popular. Dare is a role model for Sigma Nu’s Mission, ‘to develop ethical leaders.’ Yet, Dare does not place himself on a throne and give orders to people below him. Dare leads by example. If Dare sees someone that needs help, he helps them. If Dare sees trash in the hallway, he picks it up. Dare is a better man as a result of being a Sigma Nu brother and the Epsilon Epsilon Chapter is a better chapter as a result of his leadership.” – Neil Gilpin, Epsilon Epsilon (Oklahoma State) Chapter Advisor*

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**Charles “Charlie” A. McKenzie (Louisiana State)****Phi #2229 / Alpha #703**

- 3.89 GPA in Biological Sciences
- Commander, 2023
- Recruitment Chairman, 2022
- Collegiate Advisor to Sigma Nu Educational Foundation Board of Directors, 2023
- IFC Delegate and Judicial Review Board member, 2021
- Led Phi Chapter to first Rock Chapter and LSU Chapter of the Year awards
- LSU Film Club, founding member
- Rock for Reclaimed philanthropy creator – raised \$170,000 in first three years
- Alpha Epsilon Delta (Pre-Med honor society)
- *“Charlie is the epitome of what it means to be an intentional thinker, dedicated student, and driven leader. In my time advising Charlie, I have observed his strong work ethic, his ability to adapt to any situation, and his caring interpersonal skills. Charlie always meets position expectations and communication is a strong suit. His ability to time-manage and prioritize his tasks is a quality that is important to note. Charlie is soft-spoken but has intelligent and thoughtful words to share...Working with Charlie is a highlight of my role at LSU.”* – Shawna Eberhard-Smith, Director of Greek Life at LSU

**Gareth L. Morton (Central Oklahoma)****Mu Tau #266 / Alpha #704**

- 3.98 GPA in Political Science
- Lt. Commander, 2023
- Marshal, 2022
- Alumni Relations Chairman, 2022
- TEDxUCO, Director of Recruitment and Talent Acquisition, 2021-2022
- UCO Student Association, Senator and Ways and Means Committee
- Central Pantry, Director of Campus Connections and Broncho Bites Team Lead
- Legislative Intern for State Representative Forrest Bennett, 2022
- National Constitution Center Education Intern, 2023
- *“I have never worked with a student who is so devoted to the many positions they hold while also maintaining peak academic excellence. From our first interaction, I knew Gareth was someone who would make a difference on campus...I constantly see his passion for hard work, people, and for serving and guiding those around him. Many students that I work with are very good at balancing involvement or very good at balancing academics. Gareth stands out as the student who has figured out how to balance all of it at the same time.”* – Nicole Doherty, UCO Director of Community Engagement

**Cole M. Murdoch (UC Davis)****Zeta Xi #1007 / Alpha #705**

- 3.60 GPA in Political Science, public service concentration
- Commander, 2023
- IFC Board Member and Recruitment Coordinator
- IFC President of the Year
- UC Student Association Executive Board, 2020-2023
- Associated Students of UC Davis – Finance Assistant, Organizing Director, and Campus Action Chair.
- Ran financial systems for the largest student-run transportation system in the country
- *“Over the past 35 years in manufacturing and finance, I managed hundreds of employees and managers. As a business coach, I have developed dozens of leaders to high achievement. I have extremely high standards and do not pass out praises or even recommendations casually. I can honestly say that Cole 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 has the character, confidence, persistence, and teachability it takes to succeed.”* – Michael Wheeler, Zeta Xi (UC Davis) Chapter Advisor

**Rafael Ortiz, III (Arizona State)****Zeta Upsilon #1672 / Alpha #706**

- 3.75 GPA in Astrophysics
- Risk Reduction Chairman, 2023
- Involvement Chairman, 2023-2024
- Order of Omega, President
- The Leadership Forum, Chief of Staff
- ASU Student Government, Director of Student Affairs
- ASU Fraternity and Sorority Life, Community Assistant
- NASA L'SPACE Academy, Student Success Advisor
- ASU Space, Student Ambassador
- Campus Consciousness Club, Founder and Vice President
- Honors College, Teaching Assistant
- *“This year, Ralph was recognized as the Outstanding Undergraduate of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, ...the Dean’s Medalist for the School of Earth and Space Exploration, ... [and was] awarded the title of Outstanding Graduate in Research by the Honors College, recognizing his significant contributions to research with the James Webb Space Telescope at ASU. It is exceedingly rare for a student at ASU, the largest university in the world, to receive all three of these prestigious awards simultaneously...In addition to his academic excellence, Ralph has been a devoted member of Sigma Nu...Ralph is a man of honor whose character is beyond reproach, making him an outstanding individual who will continue to serve Sigma Nu throughout his life.”* – Scott Rutledge, Zeta Upsilon (Arizona State) Chapter Advisor

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**Bailey S. Powledge (Arizona State)****Zeta Upsilon #1633 / Alpha #707**

- 3.30 GPA in Marketing and Sports Business, including a Data Analytics certification
- Commander, 2022
- Chaplain, 2021-2022
- Sentinel, Spring 2021
- Social Chairman, Spring 2023 & 2024
- IFC President of the Year
- Led chapter to Rock Chapter, IFC Chapter of the Year, and NIC Chapter Award of Distinction
- IFC Vice President of Risk Management and Member Development
- Order of Omega, Vice President of Marketing
- Sun Devil Fitness Center, Head Personal Trainer
- *“Bailey has balanced his academic, professional, and extracurricular responsibilities with incredible diligence. His ability to excel academically and hold leadership positions while working part-time/full-time is a testament to his strong work ethic and time management skills... I am confident that Bailey will continue to be a driving force for positive change within Sigma Nu and the broader community, all while leading with Love, Truth, and Honor.”* – John Hopkins, Zeta Upsilon (Arizona State) alumnus

**Brandon D. Vogt (Southeast Missouri State)****Mu Kappa #507 / Alpha #708**

- 3.97 GPA in Secondary Social Studies Education
- Lt. Commander, 2023-2024
- Chaplain, 2021-2022
- Community Service Chairman, 2021
- IFC Vice President of Judicial Affairs and Vice President of Community Service and Philanthropy
- Order of Omega, President
- Iota Chi – Greek-led organization to bring awareness to and eliminate sexual assault, discrimination, and violence on campus – Vice President
- IFC Greek Man of the Year, 2024
- SEMO Man of the Year, first runner-up
- *“Brandon is a young man of uncommon honor and character. He is a student leader who can be counted on to both say and do the right thing, especially in critical moments. More importantly, Brandon leads others to live lives of achievement and philanthropy. He is beloved by his fellow students, faculty, and staff and can always be counted on to lift up those with whom he interacts. The rise of Mu Kappa’s regard as men of character, scholarship, kindness, and service among the campus and local communities is a direct reflection of Brandon’s example.”* – Dr. Trae Mitten, Dean of Students

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**Christian E. Winingar (Missouri S&T)****Gamma Xi #1611 / Alpha #709**

- 3.82 GPA in Electrical Engineering
- Commander, 2022
- Service Chairman, 2021
- Alumni Relations Chairman, 2023
- 120th Homecoming Chapter Chairman, 2023
- IFC Greek Week Chairman, 2021-2022
- IEEE Student Branch, Fundraising Chairman and Secretary
- IEEE-Eta Kappa Nu, Vice President and President
- Order of Omega
- Greek Commission All Greek Bible Study, Founding Member
- *"I've had the opportunity to work with Christian in multiple roles throughout his campus experience - most significantly as Commander of the Gamma Xi Chapter, the chapter's IFC representative, and leader of the Eta Kappa Nu honor society. In every role, he left the organization in a stronger position to succeed in the future than when he began. Christian embraced the challenge of leading the Gamma Xi Chapter through a revision of their brotherhood and commitment to the values of the Fraternity. As Commander, he took several key steps to reorient the membership toward defining the concept of a fraternity for the campus. His actions included a strategy that established a clear vision focused on accountability, relationships, recruitment, and action, which has remained engrained in chapter leaders over one and a half terms since his term ended." - John Gallagher, Director of Student Involvement and Assistant Dean of Students*

# 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.

### **Jason C. Winbolt (Missouri Valley)**

#### **Beta Gamma #818**

- Commander, Beta Gamma Alumni Chapter, 2021–present
- Brought 100 Beta Gamma alumni and family back to campus for a fellow alumnus' induction into the MVC Athletic Hall of Fame, annual alumni chapter meeting, and homecoming
- *"From the first day of [joining] Sigma Nu, Jason has been a staple in aiding in the success and growth of the Beta Gamma Chapter...Through my eyes, he succeeds in doing so and continues to help grow the presence of the Beta Gamma alumni by communicating with the brothers via phone, email, social media platforms, and regional get-togethers."* – Andrew Logue (Missouri Valley) alumnus

## 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.

### **Dr. Michael E. Hiller, DDS (Louisiana State)**

#### **Phi #1058**

- Alumni Advisory Board, 2007–present
- Alumni Advisory Board Chairman (15 years)
- Re-established strong alumni network
- Guided the chapter to first ever Rock Chapter and LSU Greek Chapter of the Year awards
- *"Dr. Hiller gives autonomy and guidance to those in chapter leadership to allow them to become the most excellent version of themselves. He provides each executive council the ability to create what they want to create without restriction. He fosters creativity and believes in the leaders of Phi. He is a role model from which we can learn quite a bit. I would not be the man I am today without Dr. Hiller's impact."* – Harper Doerr, Phi (Louisiana State) Chapter Advisor



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## 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.

### **Dr. Sean P. Killion (Jefferson)**

#### **Mu Pi #1 / Alpha #444**

- Division Commander, Northeast Beta Division, 2001-present
- Mu Pi Chapter Advisor, 1998-2001, 2023-present
- Mu Pi Alumni Advisory Board, 2019-present
- Mu Pi Alumni Chapter, President, 1998-2001
- *“As the Division Commander for the Northeast Beta Division, Sean Killion organized a meeting with the chapters in his division, giving each chapter the opportunity to see what others do well and help develop connections between each other for future events and activities. Sean’s dedication, extensive involvement, and profound impact on the chapters in his division make him exceptionally deserving of the recognition of Division Commander of the Year.”* – Nicholas Vincent, II, alumnus and former Commander of Mu Pi Chapter (Jefferson)

## 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.

### **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
- *“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 Beller, Nu (Kansas) House Corporation board member