

THE

ALUMNI RHOAR

Photo courtesy BrantleyAtkinson.com

Rho Chapter of Sigma Pi at North Carolina State University | Spring 2021

BETTER DAYS ARE AHEAD

Rho Will Persevere with Your Support

What a crazy time it has been over the last year. Let's all hope and pray that we never have to endure another pandemic in our lifetime!

Our alumni board has continued to meet, albeit virtually, every month. We have never strayed from our goal of charting a long-term Rho Chapter success path. Of course, the biggest item is the campaign to purchase the chapter house; this will secure our home for the next century.

I would like to thank the many gentlemen (currently 117) who have already stepped up and pledged their financial support. Also, a proactive "thank you" to those of you who are just about to jump in with your support as well! Our stretch goal of \$1.2 million in pledges by April 30 is very attainable, but we need everyone's help. We have contributions from \$100 to \$100,000, and they all add up. The gap to close is right around \$150,000. Remember, as far as payment, it can be a lump sum or spread out over five years, or anywhere in between.

Due to COVID-19, we have obviously not been able to have our standard Homecoming party, Founders' Day weekend, or our Summer Outing.



Thirty years past graduation, brothers celebrate the wedding of John "Kerm" Suther '86.

This is on top of not having standard NCSU football or basketball outings. Worse, so many of us have gone without our "handful of Pi brothers for a beer by the firepit" type of gatherings. All this said, we must continue to plan for a time when we can get back to normalcy. Rho Chapter will be turning 100 years old on May 21, 2021. It was our intention to have a huge weekend-long celebration, but again, it's still too soon.

Although it will not happen on the actual date, we will most definitely celebrate this wonderful occasion as soon as possible—maybe tied into

Homecoming '21, or maybe next year when we turn 101. Who exactly knows, but please do count on your alumni association to put together an event.

Fraternally,
Jack Daniels '69
Co-Chairman
daniels195@gmail.com
(919) 815-6705

Brent Brewbaker '90
Co-Chairman
ncsubrew@aol.com
(910) 975-2569

Thank You, Alumni Volunteers

Alumni Board of Directors

President
Brent Brewbaker '90

Vice President
Will Lackey '01

Secretary
Rich Adams '83

Treasurer
Steele Hall '86

Directors
Jack Cummings '72
Caleb Lloyd '08
Brian Norris '09

Chapter Director
Alex Lasek '11

Campaign Board Volunteers

Co-Chairman
Jack Daniels '69

Era Leader
Terry Allen '66

Grady Sykes '54
Lock Ireland '61
Speedy Mitchell '66
Lloyd Mattingly '71
Bill Monroe '72
Rick Schmidt '80

Co-Chairman
Brent Brewbaker '90

Era Leader
Shane Ireland '91

Jeff Cline '85
Pat McKee '85
Rick Kiernan '89
Will Lackey '01
Adam Elshanawany '13

RHO CHAPTER SECURING THE NEXT CENTURY

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Thank You, Loyal Brothers and Friends, for Your Support

Donate Today to Rho Chapter's Securing the Next Century Campaign

We are deeply grateful to the brothers and friends who have committed more than \$1,071,667 to the *Securing the Next Century* campaign. These alumni recognize the importance of ensuring the Rho's future and have demonstrated a sense of gratitude for their personal experience. Commitments are still needed from the rest of our alumni as we push forward toward our new goal of \$1.2 million.

Emerald Society

(\$100,000 and above)

Christopher Collins '69
Patrick J. McKee '85

Golden Circle Society

(\$50,000 to \$99,999)

Monroe Family Gift
Sam Monroe '70
Bill Monroe '72
James C. Saunders '86
In memory of
Kevin Vroome '92 and
Will Apple '94

Adytum Society

(\$25,000 to \$49,999)

Berkley M. Godehn '65
Lloyd E. Mattingly '71
Jeffrey S. Cline '85
Eric J. Praser '85
Rick Kiernan '89
Brent A. Brewbaker '90
Ireland Family Gift
Rho Undergraduate Chapter

Sage Society

(\$15,000 to \$24,999)

Donnell O. Bulluck '51
Carey Gupton '69
Jim Moss '72
Richard F. Schmidt '80
Neil Britt '86
D. Rick Anderson '89
Daniel Ingram '90

Rho Society

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

Paul Mitchell '66
David W. Drake '68
Gerhard Beyer '71
Greg R. Warmuth '81
Rich Adams '83
Augustus S. Hall '86
John "Kerm" Suther '86
Chris Albers '88
Jack Barger '90
Jonathan D. Boland '92

Clark Ave Society

(\$5,000 to \$9,999)

Grady Sykes '54
In memory of
James S. Caddell '52
Jan S. Jensen '57
Peter R. Gernert '61
In memory of
Asa Franklin '60
Laurice G. Altman Jr. '62
In memory of
Asa Franklin '60
William J. Davis III '65
Russ Johnston '65
In memory of
Asa Franklin '60
In honor of
Pete Gernert '61
Kenneth A. Butler '66
Robert G. Ford '66
Terry Allen '67
Phillip T. Hester '68
Jack Daniels '69
Walter D. Howard '69
R. Barry Morrow '69
Jack Cummings '72
Marcus E. Rabil '79
In memory of
Gene Jenkins '80
John Hollingsworth '85
Kelly Bordeaux '86
Jon M. Campos '87
Jeffrey D. Morgan '87
Mike Kaney '89
Chad B. Ellis '91
Joel C. Harrell '92
In memory of
Kevin S. Vroome '92
Randall J. Smith '92
Jarrod M. Dixon '97
In honor of the
Fall 1997 Pledge Class
Timothy B. Bowen '00
William R. Lackey III '01
Ryan S. Kirkendall '04
Brandon L. McPherson '04
Peter L. Barnes '07
Jimmy Davis '08
Caleb Lloyd '08
Alex Lasek '11

All supporters of the project giving \$2,500 and above will be recognized on a prominently displayed plaque within the new house. All donors contributing \$1,000 or more to the campaign are listed below. If an error has been made in recording your gift, or your name has been mistakenly omitted or listed improperly, we sincerely apologize. Please contact our campaign coordinator at (785) 843-1661.

William Kinney '11

Adam Elshanawany '13

Tyler Hatton '13

Konner H. Klingenberg '13

Lavender & White Society *(\$2,500 to \$4,999)*

Raymond R. Uptegrove '60
In memory of
Asa Franklin '60
Robert Laine '61
Patrice P. Gallant '64
Samuel M. Dollyhigh '65
Ersell C. Liles, Jr. '66
Lawrence W. Redman '67
Don B. Thompson '67
William G. Kurfels '69
Joe Watterson '81
Robert H. Livermon, Jr. '70
Osborne W. Smith, Jr. '71
James R. Baggs '72
William C. Campbell III '72
Judy and Thomas A. Melton III '74
William L. Moore III '78
Michael G. Talbot '78
Theodore A. Cunningham '80
In memory of
Hawley Heglar '76 and
John Tola '81
Anthony S. Brandon '81
Phillip G. Mosely '81
In honor of the
Spring 1981 Pledge Class
Vincent R. White '84
Cyrus W. Brame, III '87
Brandon S. Morgan '88
Zebulon Weaver, IV '88
William C. Cress III '90
Brian H. Curtis '90
Michael Moles '90
Thomas M. Spizzo '90
David Butts '91
In memory of
Kevin Vroome '92
Brian E. Trent '92
In memory of
Kevin S. Vroome '92
Gregory M. Gmyr '94
Jay Dawkins '05
Brian Norris '10

Campaign Status At-a-Glance

As of April 18, 2021

Initial Goal:
\$1 Million

Stretch Goal:
\$1.2 Million

Total Commitments:
\$1,071,667

Number of Donors:
124

Nick Despotos '13
Tommy Eagle '13
Logan Perkins '14
Zach Fearnside '15

Delta Brotherhood Society *(\$1,000 to \$2,499)*

James S. Caddell '52
Gerald B. Hurst '52
In memory of
James S. Caddell '52
Skeens, Hook, Susan Family Gift
Thomas B. Rivers Jr. '68
Michael A. Cleary '69
Thomas E. Hay '77
In honor of
David L. McMillin '76
Kenneth L. Nixon '79
Peter Kolf '83
Christopher E. Hultgren '84
Fred E. Duyck '03
Curtis Ledford '06
Drew Thomas '07
Andrew Marbrey '12
Michael W. Bunch II '14

Continuing the Legacy

The Ireland Family Helps Rho Chapter Remain Strong for Future Generations of Brothers

For the Ireland family, the Sigma Pi brotherhood is in their blood. **Lock Ireland '61** was the first to join Rho Chapter in the early 1960s. Thirty years later, his son, **Shane Ireland '91**, would arrive at North Carolina State University. "My father gave a couple of the older guys in the chapter a heads-up that I was coming to NC State for school and they decided to invite me over to the house," Shane said. "I was coming from out of state and didn't know anyone on campus, so I went to a couple of recruitment events during my first semester in school and knew Sigma Pi was the place for me after the first visit." Just a few years after Shane, **Brandon Ireland '95** entered the fold. Sigma Pi would change each of the Ireland men's lives forever.



As a legacy, Shane received an immediate invite to the chapter house, which helped him get a bid. "I'm seriously honored that my father being part of the Sigma Pi brotherhood opened the door for me to be initiated into Rho Chapter," Shane said. "I wouldn't trade my experience with anyone." Some of the family's closest relationships are with many of the guys that Shane and Brandon went to school with. "Many of our families have grown close," Shane said. "Sigma Pi created lifelong friendships for each of us. We'll cherish our time with Rho Chapter for the rest of our lives."

The relationships the Irelands developed as active members grew into lifelong bonds that have kept each of them involved with the Rho Chapter brotherhood as alumni. "I think the reason that my family, and so many of us, have stayed involved is to help create similar opportunities for others," Shane said. "I enjoy meeting the next generation of brothers as they have the opportunity to make our fraternity even stronger by building off what we started." For the Irelands, building relationships with Sigma Pi brothers is just as important today as it was when they were active members of Rho Chapter.

To give back to the brotherhood, the Ireland family came together to make a financial contribution to Rho Chapter's *Securing the Next Century* capital campaign to help purchase the house on Greek Way. "As alumni, many of us have the time and/or financial resources to help our active brothers permanently establish a home to perpetuate the bonds they are building within Rho Chapter," Shane said. "Giving isn't about what you will get back; it's about allowing others to have those wonderful experiences we all had as active brothers." Shane encourages his fellow alumni to reflect on all the experiences they had thanks to the fraternity and consider giving back. "Think of all the lifelong friendships that were created and the professional opportunities that presented themselves along the way," Shane said. "Know that the only way to pass that legacy on is to provide a strong, vibrant chapter house that our fraternity can call home for generations to come."

Shane lives in Cary, North Carolina, and can be reached at shane@winsolinc.com. Brandon lives in Raleigh, North Carolina, and can be reached at thisis4therest@hotmail.com. Lock lives in Jacksonville, Florida, and can be reached at lockireland@ashcoinc.net.



Brothers enjoy a fall paintball outing.

RHO ADAPTS AND ADVANCES

Brothers Enjoy Safe Events While Maintaining Good Grades

As we celebrate our 100th year on campus, the state of Rho Chapter is strong. Our active roster is 65 brothers, with 18 living in the chapter house at 3408 Greek Way. We initiated seven new brothers in the fall and have three new members pledging this semester. Our GPA was a 3.34 for the fall.

The COVID-19 pandemic has put a strain on everyone this past year, and the fraternity has felt this hardship. Having fewer students on campus decreased the number of potential new members by over 50% for IFC fraternities. With most of our usual events not being a possibility this year, we had to adapt and find new ways to partake in brotherhood. Virtual events and Zoom calls have been the norm. We've found ways to gather when we can, such as our brotherhood paintball outing in the fall and our mountain trip to Boone, N.C., in December. As for philanthropy, we held a blood drive at the house in October and are holding another one this month. We are also exploring options for a virtual version of our yearly Break the Silence 5K.

As restrictions start to lift, we are excited to return to normalcy. We are planning our Orchid Ball for April and other social events at venues this semester. Intramural sports have started up again, and we are excited to field soccer, flag football, and other teams. We look forward to tailgating and Homecoming in the fall, as long as the university permits it. We will hopefully hold our Alumni Cocktail in October as well. We are excited to celebrate our chapter's 100th anniversary later this year and hope to see you all there.



Brothers outside the chapter house.



Our fall 2020 new members.

Fraternally,
Kyle Bonnett '17
Chapter President
kmbonnet@ncsu.edu

THE

ALUMNI



RHOAR

FOUNDERS' DAY MEETING A SUCCESS

Thank you to all the alumni who attended our virtual Founders' Day meeting in February. We were thrilled to have 60 brothers attend to hear updates from the alumni board, active chapter, and campaign chairmen. The next 100 years at Rho Chapter are looking very bright thanks to our dedicated alumni.

Fraternally, Rho Chapter Alumni Association



Executive Council 2021

Sage

Kyle Bonnett '17
kmbonnet@ncsu.edu

First Counselor
Jason Reynolds '18

Second Counselor
Joe Binkley '18

Third Counselor
Andrew McKee '18

Fourth Counselor
Frank Noojin '18

Herald
Cole Kelly '19

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