

# ***BRINGING SIGMA CHI BACK TO AUBURN UNIVERSITY CASE FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT***

## ***I. Background***

Since 1934, the Gamma Sigma Chapter of Sigma Chi has been a leader among Fraternities on the Auburn University Campus. We have been dedicated to the cultivation and accomplishment of the ideals of Friendship, Justice and Learning. We have over 1900 living alumni, and our chapter alumni include a Past Grand Consul, five members of the Order of Constantine, two members who have received the Seven Lights Award, and eighteen members who have been recognized as Significant Sigs.

## ***II. Gamma Sigma Supporting Organizations***

In 1991 the Gamma Sigma Chapter created the Sigma Chi Foundation at Auburn University, Inc. Gifts are fully tax deductible if made to this Foundation. Since its creation, the Foundation has provided significant support for House renovations and scholarships for Fraternity members. It has made grants to the House Corporation of nearly \$300,000 for house construction and renovations. Additionally, academic scholarships have been awarded to undergraduate brothers of nearly \$80,000. Also, over the years, substantial loans were made to the House Corporation, all of which have been repaid.

Gamma Sigma also has a House Corporation, which is a separate entity from the Foundation, with a separate Board of Directors. The House Corporation's main purpose is to care for and maintain our House located at 737 West Magnolia. The House Corporation Board is currently engaged in the planning for the renovations that will be made to the house prior to its re-occupation in the Fall of 2019 and in later years.

## ***III. Where We Are Today***

In 2014, Sigma Chi International suspended our Chapter after an investigation into hazing allegations. The expectation was for a four-year hiatus from campus.

In the summer of 2017, Sigma Chi International approved the establishment of the Gamma Colony on the Auburn campus. Since its inception, the Colony has been a great success story. Today we have 39 extraordinary young men who have become Colony members by successfully completing the newly revamped “Preparation for Brotherhood” program. Colony members are focused on living up to the ideals of Sigma Chi. For the Spring 2018 semester, the Colony had a 3.29 GPA, ranking the 4<sup>th</sup> highest among all Fraternities on the Auburn campus.

Colony members have also been focused on service to the community, participating in fundraisers such as Walk-A-Mile in Her Shoes (Alpha Chi Omega) and the Beat Bama Food Drive (campus-wide). Michael Roberts, a Colony member, serves as Vice-President for Campus Involvement (Beat Bama). The Colony also sponsored their Sweetheart, Carley Biven (Phi Mu 2019) for Homecoming Queen this semester. Colony members recently held a fundraising event on Friday night prior to the UT game to support the John Huntsman Cancer Institute. They also recently won the Intramural Football Championship for small fraternities.

Local alumni support has been fantastic, and is a significant reason behind the success of the Colony thus far. Many alumni are working on the Local Advisory team, including Brian Snyder (Eta Phi Troy State '85) who serves as Chapter Advisor, and David Hennessey (Gamma Sigma '95) who serves as Faculty Advisor. Many other alumni are engaged in helping the effort to bring Sigma Chi back to Auburn through the Foundation, House Corporation, and this fundraising campaign.

#### IV. ***Where are we going, and how specifically do we intend to use the funds?***

The current plan is to secure our Charter and install the Chapter in the Spring of 2019, and return to the house for the Fall 2019 semester. Installation of the Chapter and Initiation are tentatively planned for the weekend of April 5-7, 2019. We hope that many alumni will be able to join us for the celebration!

The House Corporation has rented the house to another Fraternity for the past several years. However, the house needs substantial renovations to return it to a

first-class facility we can all be proud of and where future Sigma Chi Brothers can live and grow.

The young men of the Gamma Colony and the local alumni have worked extremely hard to put us in the great position we enjoy today. But we need the help of all alumni to provide funding needed to complete the renovations to the House and support the scholarship and academics that will ensure the future success of our Gamma Sigma Chapter.

### **House Renovations**

Phase One - Spring of 2019

Repair/replace perimeter fence  
Purchase freezers for kitchen  
Purchase ovens for kitchen  
Purchase new dormitory A/C units

Sub-total - \$55,500

Phase Two – Summer of 2019

Renovate dormitory and women's restrooms  
Purchase and install security cameras  
Replace dining room and 3 other exterior doors  
Install Wi-Fi  
Renovate library  
Clean and paint kitchen  
Update electrical and lighting  
Replace dormitory windows  
Install new flooring in dormitory rooms  
Paint interior of house  
Renovate laundry  
Purchase all new furniture  
Replace HVAC in Chapter room and Housemother residence  
Repave driveway, and both parking lots  
Repaint party barn and install fans  
Repair basketball court

Renovate kitchen serving area  
General cleanup

Sub-total - \$347,000

Phase Three – Other Projects Post Summer of 2019

Chapter Room addition  
Replace roof  
Replace HVAC system  
Paint and caulk exterior of house  
Maintenance Reserve

Sub-total - \$261,000

Total - \$663,500

These amounts do not include House Corporation expenses that will be incurred for the interior designer to assist with the renovation, the costs of alumni communications (i.e. newsletters), and other administrative expenses.

### **Academic and Leadership Development Support**

The Foundation has traditionally provided scholarships to deserving active members and other support for them to attend leadership training workshops and other general fraternity programs. The amount of this support has been approximately \$10,000 per year.

## ***V. Greek Community Environment***

It is no secret that the Greek community is facing extreme scrutiny across the nation. We are pleased to report that the administration at Auburn University has been supportive of the Greek community and Sigma Chi's return to campus. Sigma Chi International's vision is to become the preeminent leadership development organization – aligned, focused, and living our core values of Friendship, Justice and Learning. There will be NO tolerance for hazing, and academic standards have been set extremely high. Our model will serve as a

shining example of how a Fraternity should work, helping to restore the reputation of the Greek world.

## ***VI. Goal and How Contributions Can Be Made***

This is the second phase of our fundraising efforts to support return of the Chapter to Auburn. Phase one was held in 2016 and raised approximately \$176,000, with 14 Brothers contributing \$5,000 or more.

The second phase campaign goal for the renovation of the Chapter House and continued academic and leadership support is \$500,000.

How you can give:

### One Time Gifts

1. Write a check to The Sigma Chi Foundation at Auburn University, Inc. in the amount of your gift.
2. Mail the check, in care of Fred McCallum, to 2110 Longleaf Trail, Vestavia, AL 35243.
3. Under Internal Revenue Code rules, contributors will receive a letter acknowledging your gift.

While we are not explicitly advertising the option of single sum, multi-year contributions, we certainly are willing to accept and administer multi-year gifts to the Foundation. It would be helpful if these were three years or less.

### Online Contributions

You can contribute by credit card or through a PayPal account by going to the Gamma Sigma alumni website at [auburnsigmachi.com](http://auburnsigmachi.com) and selecting the “Donate” button on the Home Page.

### The Robert A. Benz Gamma Sigma White Cross Society

The leadership of Gamma Sigma has formed The Robert A. Benz (Gamma Sigma '60) Gamma Sigma White Cross Society, within the Foundation, which provides

for annual giving to directly support the Chapter through scholarships, funds for attendance at leadership workshops and other general fraternity gatherings which support academics and chapter leadership, and other qualifying purposes. Fully deductible Federal Income Tax Contributions should be made to The Sigma Chi Foundation at Auburn University, Inc. at the above address. Contributors will receive a letter acknowledging their contribution pursuant to IRS rules.

There are two levels of giving for members of The Robert A. Benz Gamma Sigma White Cross Society – 1. Alumni graduating less than 10 years ago - \$500 annually; 2. Alumni graduating 10 or more years ago and other friends and family - \$1,000 annually. Society members will be recognized at Fraternity events and in Chapter and Alumni newsletters (including the celebration for the reinstatement of the Chapter in the Spring of 2019); and at an annual Foundation function which will be held in Auburn each year with the Actives to keep everyone updated on the progress of the Chapter. The first gathering will be held in the Fall of 2019. Those who contribute \$5,000 or more in one-time gifts in phase one or phase two of this campaign will automatically become members of the Society for the first year (2018-2019), will receive the recognition described above, and in addition will be recognized on a special plaque to be placed in the House after we move back in. Membership in the White Cross Society is voluntary from year to year.

#### Other Options

Depending on the status of a donor, there are other options that might be available to contribute to the Foundation, a 501(c)(3) entity:

1. Transfer of stock that has appreciated in value;
2. Directing retirement Required Minimum Distributions, within limits, to the Foundation;
3. Testamentary gifts.

***INDIVIDUALS SHOULD CONTACT THEIR FINANCIAL OR TAX ADVISOR TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER ANY OF THESE OPTIONS ARE AVAILABLE TO THEM. WE CANNOT PROVIDE FINANCIAL OR TAX ADVICE.***

## ***VII. What We Need***

For all alumni, we ask that they contribute what they feel they can afford. However, for those alumni who can do so, we ask them to consider contributing \$5,000 to \$10,000 one time and becoming a member of the Robert A. Benz Gamma Sigma White Cross Society for future years. As noted above, one-time contributions of \$5,000 or more will automatically become members of the Society for the first year – and contributions thereafter will be totally voluntary from year to year.

Obviously, we will very much appreciate ANY support that alumni are willing to provide. As noted above, while we are not explicitly advertising the option to give a multi-year gift – we certainly are willing to accept and administer these gifts.

Revised November 7, 2018