The Black & Gold of Sigma Nu Fraternity at Theta Kappa Chapter

Sigma Nu Fraternity **July 1, 2018 – Spring Alumni Chapter Newsletter** **Georgia Southern University**

From the Alumni Commander

Greetings Alumni, Brothers, and Friends of Theta Kappa! I trust that this finds everyone in good health and spirit. As the newly "elected" Commander of the Theta Kappa Alumni Chapter, I'd like to welcome everyone to the revival of the alumni newsletter.

For those that already know me, you're one of the lucky ones. For those that don't, here's some background on me. I was initiated as a Sigma Nu Brother in the spring of 1979 as Theta Kappa 171 at Georgia Southern College. At that time, we had a small but highly active brotherhood that bonded under the tenets of Sigma Nu, Love, Honor, and Truth. The same tenets that we see today at Theta Kappa. I made many lifelong friends during that period and have developed many new ones since.

After graduating after fall of 1981, I married my college sweetheart Laurie and we've now been married for 36 years. We've two grown kids, and a big empty house now. To fill the time void, I have become a little more active with the Alumni Advisory Board and now Alumni Commander.

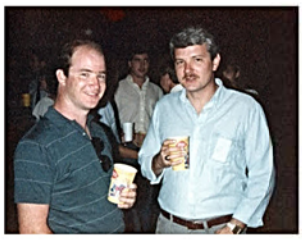
We live in south Forsyth county and I work for DataPath, Inc. in Duluth as the Director of Information Technology and Network Solutions Engineering. I never dreamed that my GSC degree would have lead me to being one of the technology leads for a global company dealing with satellite technologies, the US military, and travel to places I would have never imagined.

Finally, I'd like to encourage all alumni and friends come to any of the functions that we will have. It's all low key, with none of the pressures that you could imagine. For me, it's been a breath of fresh air.

If you have any tidbits about yourself or family and any pictures you'd like to share, by all means, go to **http://www.sigmanugsu.com/update** or send them to me so we can include them in the next newsletter. Enjoy the newsletter and photos.

Fraternally,

Wray Upchurch
wupchurch@bellsouth.net
Worthy Commander, Theta Kappa Alumni Chapter, ΘK171



The **Black and Gold** is dedicated to the memory of W. Palmer Drew, Richard L. Anderson, and Dewey F. Holland, all very honorable knights in the Theta Kappa Chapter and Sigma Nu Fraternity.

The **Black and Gold** is published by the collegiate and alumni members of Theta Kappa for its members and friends.

Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc.

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Collegiate Chapter Officers

Commander ..... Connor Hamil
Lt. Commander ..... Chandler O'Brien
Treasurer ..... Austin Howard
Recorder ..... Jake Sunday
Marshal ..... Connor Stewart
Recruitment Officer ..... Brady Kelly
LEAD Chairman ..... Tyler Winslow
Sentinel ..... Christian Loughran
Social Chairman ..... Collin Cummings
Chaplain ..... Ethan Childers
Alumni Relations ..... Ryan Skibicki

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SIGMA NU FRATERNITY
Theta Kappa Alumni Chapter
PO Box 1697
Statesboro, GA 30459-1697

From the Chapter Commander

Brothers, I would like to start off by introducing myself as well as give you all a little insight about me. My name is Connor Hamil, ΘK 875, the 48th Commander of the Theta Kappa Chapter. I am a junior marketing major from Carrollton, Ga, and I joined the chapter in the fall of 2015. Previously, I have been the Recruitment Chairman as well as the Lt. Commander, where I was able to work hand in hand with Marshall Richards the previous Commander. Needless to say, I am extremely honored to be in this position and look forward to what this year has in store for me.

Once again Theta Kappa has gone above and beyond in recruitment bringing in the largest candidate class on campus. This past semester I am thrilled to say we initiated 38 candidates 8 of which were legacies but this couldn't have been done without the help of our recruitment advisors and the referrals sent in from alumni. With that being said, I would like to thank all of those who sent in referrals; we highly value your opinion and greatly consider that during our bid process. The chapter currently sits at 130 brothers; Theta Kappa membership is strong, we are largest and strongest chapter at Georgia Southern, but also the largest Sigma Nu Chapter in Georgia & Florida, but each year is a new year and we always need your help. That puts Theta Kappa at 984 initiates making this year a giant milestone in our chapter. Be on the lookout for an invitation to attend the initiation of the 1000 man which will most likely be a black-tie event. If you know someone who would be interested or have a recommendation please go to: www.sigmanugsu.com/referral. Please send us your REFERRALS – we appreciate it very much!

As most of you know the collegiate chapter has to complete a pursuit of excellence every spring semester for nationals. This is the collection of documentation summarizing our years' work that is graded by our leadership consultant and ultimately decides if we are a Rock Chapter. To achieve Rock Chapter status a chapter has to acquire 50 of the 60 total points possible from their submissions over the course of two years. We got our past submission back and we got 24 points out of 30 which is not terrible but definitely leaves room for improvement on our next submission. If all goes according to plan we hope to receive our 2nd Rock Chapter this summer in Washington D.C.

For those of you who do not know we have changed our philanthropy to the Sarcoma Foundation. This foundation is very close to each collegians heart because our brother Ethan Adams, TK 788, has just returned back to school after overcoming his battle with cancer. Ethan is a past Lt. Commander and has been very involved and influential on the chapter since his initiation. This past year we held two philanthropy events, Fetch -a-slice and Battle of the boards, raising $7,500 for the Sarcoma Foundation which was donated in Ethan's name. This spring we will be holding another event towards the end of the semester that we hope to raise upwards of 10k.

If there are any questions about the chapter or you are just look for a way to get involved in the collegiate chapter feel free to email or call me anytime. I look forward to working with you.

We are very happy to have raised our chapter GPA to above 3.0 and to have been awarded our 2nd Rock Chapter Award, now two times in a row! Thank you to the chapter, but also our alumni volunteers for all the hard work!

If you have questions or need to know what is going on, please feel free to contact me.

Connor

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48th Eminent Commander of Theta Kappa
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Big Chapter News!!!

Theta Kappa was awarded **Rock Chapter** again at the recent Grand Chapter. This high honor is awarded every 2 years at Grand Chapter and to be granted the award, a chapter should be expected to attain the ideals or a nearly perfect state across a broad range of areas of fraternity operations. **Congratulations!**

Theta Kappa attained a 3.0 GPA for the Spring 2018 semester. Being one of the largest fraternities on campus, this is a great achievement.

Keep up the great work!

Important Dates

05/06/2018	Theta Kappa Colony's 50th Anniversary
05/10/2018	Theta Kappa's 48th Anniversary
11/17/2018	Theta Kappa Founder's Day (1967) - 51st Anniversary
10/06/2018	2018 Football Homecoming
11/10/2018	Theta Kappa 1000th Initiate Celebration

Alumni Spotlight

Each issue, we are going to spotlight an alumni to catch up with. ΘK would like to recognize now Alumni Brother Adam Clay, ΘK 810 on his selection as Alpha Chapter Affiliate – Alpha #631. This is a prestigious honor from ΣN that 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. Adam is the first son of ΘK to achieve this high honor.

A homegrown product from Statesboro High School, Adam was a "workhorse" as one alumni stated. As Recruitment Chairman, he successfully spearheaded a chapter wide effort that doubled the size of the collegiate chapter during a period when manpower growth was critical. He also served ΘK as Candidate Marshall and Commander. Beyond our chapter, Adam also served the Greek Community as IFC President & Vice President of Recruitment and the GSU student body as Vice President of Auxiliary Affairs. When reflecting on an ambitious college career, Adam states that is fondest memory was "walking across the stage at the 2016 Grand Chapter to receive our beloved chapter's first ever Rock Chapter Award and celebrating with the chapter representatives that were present."

Graduating in December '16 with a double major in Marketing & Logistics, Adam began his professional career with Kraft Heinz Company. Recently promoted and relocated to Bentonville, AR, Adam is the Category Leadership Advisor – Coffee on the Walmart account. In this role, Adam is responsible for advising the Walmart buyer on the coffee category. With his team, he develops a strategic plan for the coffee category, decides what items will be accepted into Walmart, designs the store layouts, and executes the vision to grow the coffee business in 4,700 stores. Adam credits his time in the chapter for preparing him for his professional life by teaching him how to overcome difficult roadblocks, developing & executing a strategic plan and the importance of team work and collaboration.

On a personal note, Adam is recently engaged to Maggie Widner (Kappa Kappa Gama from GSU). In his free time, he enjoys golf, traveling to Disney World & hiking in the Ozark Mountains. Adam volunteers his time at the Northwest Arkansas Food Bank.

In closing, Adam issues a challenge "to each brother, regardless of your ΘK generation, to connect with collegiate chapter and your alumni brothers and to invest in the brotherhood." Well stated Adam!

ALUMNI TIDBITS – THE SCOOP!

This section is devoted to providing our reader with updates – the scoop – on what is going on with their brothers, friends, collegiates' parents, and friends. You can submit one on yourself or for someone else on the Tidbits site at: www.sigmanugsu.com/tidbits

Brother **Tim Mathis** (ΘK 391) was named head football coach at Cumberland University in Lebanon, TN. Previously Tim served as an assistant coach at Shorter University for 10 seasons and several other coaching positions along the way. Tim graduated from Georgia Southern in 1996. Congratulations Brother Tim!

Congratulations to **Justin Mullis** (ΘK 619) for starting a new position as Assistant District Attorney at Fulton County District Attorney's Office. We hope not to meet you under certain circumstances.

Congratulations to **Carlos Robelo** (ΘK 758) who has accepted a new position at Deloitte as a Sr. Consultant in the Financial & Risk Advisory Group. His specialty is cyber risk and cyber security in IT systems & applications.

Chapter Eternal: Mike Kirby (ΘK 159) passed last August in Orlando and J. Mark Cunningham (ΘK 277) passed last May in Ringgold.

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2018 Georgia Southern Football Schedule

September:
Sept. 1: South Carolina State
Sept. 8: UMass
Sept. 15: at Clemson
Sept. 22: OPEN
Sept. 29: Arkansas State *

Come down and enjoy a game!

October:
Oct. 6: South Alabama *
Oct. 11: at Texas State * (Thurs.; ESPNU)
Oct. 20: at New Mexico State
Oct. 25: Appalachian State * (Thurs.; ESPNU)

Homecoming is October 6th !!!

Come join for fun, golf, and Eagle football!

November:
Nov. 3: at ULM *
Nov. 10: Troy *
Nov. 17: at Coastal Carolina *
Nov. 24: at Georgia State *
December:
Dec. 1: SBC Championship [if qualified]

For more info!!! Search for the Facebook Group: Sigma Nu - Georgia Southern - Theta Kappa or http://www.sigmanugsu.com

New Alumni Chapter Officers

Congratulations to the new Theta Kappa Alumni Chapter Officers elected Sat., Oct. 14, 2017:

- Worthy Commander: Wray D. Upchurch, ΘK 171
- Worthy Lt. Commander: Eric S. Moore, ΘK 273
- Worthy Recorder: Joshua B. Calhoun, ΘK 804

These alumni were elected at our Homecoming Alumni Meeting to serve for the term 2017-19 and will be integral to the planning of the 50th anniversary celebrations. Thank you to outgoing Worthy Commander, Jonathan Cundiff, ΘK 555, for his 3 years of service, who officiated the elections and the transition. Best wishes to all of you!

ΣNETT!

Homecoming is October 6, 2018—make plans now!

Theta Kappa Alumni Chapter Officers - 2017-2019

Wray Upchurch
Worthy Commander (2017-2019)
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ΘK 273; Past Rush Chair & Alum Cdr
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Joshua Calhoun
Worthy Recorder (2017-2019)
ΘK 804; Recorder/LEAD Officer
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