Winter 2019

Sigma Alpha Epsilon Alumni Newsletter, Winter 2019

Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity, Wofford College

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A word from our Eminent Archon

Carter Atchison

Dear South Carolina Gamma alumni, family, and friends:

Welcome to the Winter issue of our chapter newsletter, a way to stay in touch with alumni brothers of our storied chapter of SAE, with our families, and with our friends at Wofford and beyond.

SC Gamma is dedicated to brotherhood, integrity, and excellence inside and outside the classroom. We have a great group of young men challenging each other and growing together. We appreciate all of the support you have given our chapter to get us where we are now.

Last weekend, SC Gamma received the Province Rho John Deas Zeal Chapter of the Year award for the 2018-2019 academic year. We are humbled to receive this recognition two years in a row.

This newsletter will feature articles and photographs focused on:
- Events in the Spring including Alumni Weekend & Parents weekend
- Achievements of current brothers
- A new Facebook page and LinkedIn group for our chapter
- Our presentation at the national Executives Academy
- New members initiated in February
- The chapter’s philanthropy plans and our relationship with the JED Foundation

Please contact us at any time at sae@wofford.edu.

Phi Alpha,
Carter Atchison
Connor Donohue's Senior Season

Started in all 17 games played... Led the team in points (16) and goals (6)... Finished fifth on the team in minutes with 1,440 minutes played... Recorded six goals and four assists... Tallied three game-winning goals against Winthrop (9/2), UNCG (10/9), and USC Upstate (10/27)... Played a season-high 105 minutes in 2-1 win against UNCG (10/9)... Registered assists against Cal Baptist (9/9) and Duke (10/2)... Scored a goal versus ETSU (10/6) and Furman (10/16)... Earned three points (goal and assist) in 3-2 win against Belmont (10/20)... Finished Wofford career with 10 goals and 11 assists.

Mills Brice and Nolan Dee Serve on James-Atkins Investment Fund

The James - Atkins fund is an organization that provides students of Wofford College with real life investment experience. Working with Dr. Swicegood, students do all the research and decision making that it takes to manage an investment fund.

Fall 2018 Dean's List

Mason Barrett  
Mills Brice  
Alex Collie  
Nolan Dee  
Wells Ducas  
Henry Lesesne  
Jack Lesesne  
Jack Ogburn  
George Skenteris*  
Chase Storch  
William Stout*  
Shand Terreni

* Denotes 4.0 GPA for Fall Term

Commitment to Scholastic Achievement

SC Gamma is proud of all of our members who made the Dean's List this semester. However, we are also proud of every member who made strides in improving his overall GPA this semester.

Parents, thank you for your academic support of your son(s). We cannot be more happy to be home to some of the most creative, passionate, and intelligent students at Wofford.
William Stout Earns Bronze at SoCon Indoor Track & Field Championships

William Stout ’20, a Dean's List Biology major with a perfect GPA in the Fall 2018 semester, earned a bronze medal in the Heptathlon at the 2019 Southern Conference Indoor Track & Field Championships in Lexington, Kentucky, on January 24.

William scored first in the 1,000 meter portion of the event.

Stout holds the school record in the pole vault (4.10m / 13’ 5.25”). He was named to the 2018 Indoor All-SoCon Heptathlon Team the 2018 Outdoor All-SoCon Decathlon Team.

SC Gamma Hosts 2019 Province Rho Leadership School
February 22-23, 2019

The brothers of SC Gamma hosted the 2019 Province Rho Leadership School on Wofford's campus.

Using the True Gentleman Experience as a model for programming, the chapter offered the following sessions to approximately 80 attendees from across the state.

Mental Health Update
Ms. Lauren Hulstrand (Wellness Center) spoke on mental health issues, especially as they pertain to college males. She highlighted strategies for coping with depression and anxiety; discussed ways to approach others suffering from depression; and offered statistics on mental health and suicide among college students.

Sexual Health
Ms. Lisa Lefebvre (Wellness Center) and Dr. John Lefebvre (Psychology) spoke on STI’s, STD’s, contraception, Plan B, and a variety of other issues pertinent to males on a college campus.

Diversity and Leadership
Demario Watts (Assistant Dean for Diversity and Leadership) talked with brothers about diversity, inclusion, and leadership issues.

Fraternity in Daily Life
Carter Atchison ’20 and Nolan Dee ’20 discussed the importance of reflecting the values of The True Gentleman in all aspects of life.

Students Interested in Law School
Judge Mark Hayes and Austin Ciuffo ’19 shared insights from applying to law school to a distinguished career on the bench.

Microsoft Excel
Dr. Boyce Lawton taught sessions on some of the skills most often cited as "lacking" among college graduates.

Keynote Address
Robert Barber ’71, shared his journey from Wofford College through medical school, divinity school, and law school. After serving as a Methodist minister, a lawyer, lobbyist, and a member of the SC House of Representatives, Mr. Barber now runs Bowens Island Restaurant - founded by his grandparents. Barber shared the importance of living an honorable life amidst difficult times, of giving to those in need, and of always upholding the ideals of the True Gentleman.
Dr. Lawton becomes Brother Lawton

John Stringfellow, our Province Archon asked our chapter to travel to Furman to initiate brothers from the Furman class of ’68 who had never officially gone through the ritual of becoming an SAE brother. Another great aspect of this trip was that the Province invited Dr. Lawton, our chapter advisor, to be initiated into the fraternity. So six of our current brothers, four pictured here, drove to Greenville to help with the initiation. We helped initiate 10 members of the Furman chapter from the 60’s along with initiating Dr. Lawton.

A Word From Our Advisor

Brother/Dr. Boyce Lawton

I’ve joked with my friends that joining a Greek fraternity was not on my "bucket-list" of things to do in my 50th year. But I’ll be completely honest and say that few things have filled me with as much joy and sense of accomplishment as working with the young men of SC Gamma.

It has been an honor to watch the SC Gamma chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon change over the last few years as its members have adopted a sense of duty to the ideals they recite in the True Gentleman.

Our chapter has changed. We have moved from a constant fear of being closed to a quiet sense of pride in what we stand for and how we seek to help those around us.

As an advisor, and now a brother, I am humbled at the trust the brothers place in me and their willingness to share their hopes, troubles, and fears.

For any of you who have "disconnected" with the chapter over the years, I’d like to offer a sincere invitation for you to reconnect. Your time, your talent, and your mentorship would mean a great deal to these young men.

For any of you wanting to provide a long-lasting measure of support, I would encourage to you consider giving to the SC Gamma Education Fund held by the SAE Foundation.

Donations are held in an endowment with proceeds used to send brothers to Leadership Schools and other national functions. If the fund ever grows to the point that available funds exceed the need for national events, excess funds can be awarded as scholarships to SC Gamma members.

I give to the fund each month, and I would humbly ask that you consider a gift as well, no matter the amount. Our education fund is very small, and we need your help.

Donations can be made at http://www.sae.net/foundation

Please feel free to contact me anytime at lawtonbm@wofford.edu.
Brothers Abroad
A Time for Reflection

Wofford continues to be a nationwide leader in students studying abroad for academic credit.

Last fall, SC Gamma had three students abroad:
Alex Collie ’20 (Business Economics/ Spanish) - Barcelona, Spain
Ben Myer ’20 (English) - Prague, Czech Republic
Cole Sanford ’19 (Chinese) - Nanjing, China

This spring, the chapter has four members abroad:
Jack Lesesne ’19 (Finance/Spanish) - Spain
Sam Ross ’20 (Business Economics) - Spain
Jack Sicker ’19 (Business Economics) - Spain
Christian Womeldorph ’20 (Accounting/Finance) - Spain

Interim is a great opportunity for Wofford students to explore experiences that they would not normally partake in during the regular semester. Our brothers took full advantage of this, traveling across the world to learn about different cultures. Over the course of Interim, we had brothers travel to Japan, Morocco, Hawaii, Costa Rica, Italy and many other countries.

“I spent interim in Lanai, Hawaii, working in the dental and medical clinic on the island. I was fortunate to gain great medical and dental experience in the clinics, but my favorite part was snorkeling, spearfishing, and camping on the remote beaches there. I am incredibly grateful for those who made this trip a reality.” - Wells Ducas ’20

“Since Prague is based in Central Europe, I was able to travel easily and frequently throughout Europe, which is one of the main reasons I chose to study abroad.” - Ben Myer ’20
SC Gamma Presents at Inaugural Executives Academy
One of our proudest achievements

This year, Sigma Alpha Epsilon rebranded the Eminent Archon Academy into the Executives Academy, expanding the invitation to chapter advisors, health and safety officers, and recruitment chairs.

Wofford sent Carter Atchison (EA), Ethan Marshall (H&S), Nathan Heinlein (RC), and Dr. Boyce Lawton to Chicago in January to attend the event.

However, because of our great work this past semester, Katie Gardner, national's education officer, chose our chapter to give a presentation in front of SAE chapters officers across the nation.

SC Gamma offered a 45 minute presentation on Saturday morning to over 300 people including national representatives, chapter advisors, and officers.

The chapter offered a pathway for rebranding a chapter's image based on our work over the last few years, and it showed how believing first in ourselves is key to the successful recruitment of new members and to marketing the chapter to students, alumni, parents, faculty, and the administration of the College.

EA Carter Atchison highlighted the chapter’s work with the JED Foundation and mental health awareness on Wofford’s campus.

The JED Foundation's Director of Community Outreach, Maria Theodore, credits the presentation with many SAE chapters reaching out to JED in the last two months inquiring about supporting the effort to increase mental health awareness and suicide prevention on their campuses.

The JED Foundation has since asked if they could use SC Gamma’s work as a model for others to incorporate education into fundraising efforts.
Mental health, It's not Over
If you want to help, let us know.

During Finals Week of the fall semester, our chapter partnered with organizations such as Active Minds, Psychology Kingdom, and the Wellness Center to host a de-stress event with puppies and hot chocolate at the Sandor Teszler Library. Mental Health information was available at the event, and the College provided hot chocolate and granola bars.

Our Chapter has chosen to continue to do work with the JED Foundation moving forward after their gracious appreciation for the work we did in the fall. A representative from the JED Foundation sent us an email asking for as much information as possible from the event.

Why?

Because she said that JED would use our philanthropy in the spring as a model for education and fundraising across college campuses.

We are excited to continue to create conversations about mental health, let’s all remember to not be afraid to open up.
SC Gamma's efforts featured in National Publications

The chapter's efforts with mental health awareness and suicide prevention among college students was recently featured in Sigma Alpha Epsilon's online edition of The Record and on the JED Foundation's website.

Click here to view The Record article.
Click here to view the JED Foundation article.

Supporting youth in our local community

SC Gamma brothers Mills Brice ’20 and Rhett Andrews ’20 spent the fall semester coaching young men on The Episcopal Church of the Advent's youth basketball team.

The coaches' efforts led the team to win the league championship in February.

Mills Brice is majoring in Accounting and Finance, and he serves SC Gamma as the Eminent Treasurer.

Rhett Andrews is finance major serving the chapter as the Alumni Relations chair. Rhett's father, Ronnie Andrews is an SC Gamma alumni who also serves on Wofford's Board of Trustees.
SC Gamma Welcomes 17 New Members

The Chapter proudly extended bids to seventeen men on Sunday, February 17, 2019.

According to national policy, all men became full members of Sigma Alpha Epsilon at the SC Gamma Chapter within 96 hours. Initiation was held on Tuesday, February 19, in the Anna Todd Wofford room on campus.

- Charles Adams - Charlotte, NC
- Ade Akinjogbin - London, England
- Jones Alexander - Charleston, SC
- Henry Atkins - Arlington, VA
- John Beard - Greensboro, NC
- William Collis - Greensboro, NC
- Ike Ducas - Nicholasville, KY
- John Farrell - Mount Pleasant, SC
- Hayden Genoble - Jonesville, SC
- Brett Goodman - Savannah, GA
- Wilson Grayson - Pawleys Island, SC
- JonAnthony Hartley - Myrtle Beach, SC
- Tommy Hopkins - Winston Salem, NC
- Henry Keel - Belmont, NC
- Will Newton - Winston Salem, NC
- Jack O’Brien - Winston Salem, NC
- Will Reed - Florence, AL

Did you know Sigma Alpha Epsilon was the first fraternity to eliminate pledging?

SAE eliminated pledging in 2014, citing the vision of the fraternity’s original Ritual and Constitution.

Spring Events

Cowboy Party: March 8-9
Parents Weekend: March 22-23

We cannot wait to host both parents and alumni for their respective weekends. This is a great opportunity to meet some of the best people.

We hope you attend, and when you arrive, be as social as possible. The brothers love getting to know people and showing them what great things we are doing at Wofford College.

Alumni: If you are ever in town or want to come for a visit to see the chapter, do not hesitate to contact us. We would love to host you and share in the honor of being a brother of this great fraternity.
How can you help?

Volunteer to talk to the chapter. Hire a summer intern. Serve as a mentor. Employ a graduating senior. Cover fraternity dues for a student with financial need. Contribute to the chapter education fund. Help brothers to build a network. Tell the chapter about potential brothers. Take a brother to lunch when you are in town.

Please connect with our new LinkedIn Group, Wofford College SAE- SC Gamma to improve the network of our chapter, possibly finding some of the best interns in all of South Carolina.

The brothers of SAE and Dr. Lawton have created a Facebook Page to inform you of our chapter news. This group is open to all brother, parents, grandparents, friends, family, etc. Please "like" us after searching Facebook for Wofford College SAE - SC Gamma.