On January 1, 1869, Sigma Nu made its formal debut at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia. However, its beginnings can be traced to an October evening in 1868.

When James Frank Hopkins of Arkansas enrolled at the Institute, hazing was a part of student life. Hopkins was unwilling to be a part of the hazing. He found two kindred spirits, Greenfield Quarles and James McIlvaine Riley. On an October evening the three of them met near the parade ground and pledged an oath to a new society. They called it the Legion of Honor. The vows opposed hazing and advocated honor.¹

In April 1894, there was a small mention of the University of Illinois in The Delta. It was noted that the university had “an enrollment of 728, an increase of forty percent in the last ten years. Its faculty has increased from 29 to 61 within the past five years.”²

Six years later, George M. Cook,³ who was then Inspector of Division VII, recommended “the University of Illinois as a good field for investigation.”⁴ In the May 1902 Delta, in the report of Cook’s chapter, Beta Eta at Indiana University, it was noted, that “Vice Regent Cook sold out his ‘Capital’ at Vincennes, Ind. and is editor of the Daily Courier at Urbana, Illinois, the seat of the State University. It would be perfectly natural for Cook to found a chapter there, as he can’t get along without Sigma Nu. In the event he does, will Beta Eta be like the little boy when the new baby arrives - not in it?”⁵

The August 1902 Delta told the story of how Sigma Nu entered the University of Illinois. The story began in 1897, when “Sigma Nu would have been petitioned from Illinois had not the men

¹ http://www.sigmanu.org/about/history.php
² The Delta of Sigma Nu, April 1894, p. 299.
³ For more information on Cook, see The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1916, p. 374, and May 1937, p. 502.
⁴ The Delta of Sigma Nu, November 1900, p. 186.
⁵ The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1902, p. 446.
been discouraged, and given to understand that Sigma Nu did not care to enter that institution. And so it has been almost every year since then that the University has been up for discussion."

Cook, who by 1902, was a Vice Regent, recounted the chapter’s history. In January 1902, Cook, along with A. Miller Belfield and George A. Smith, investigated a group of men who wanted to petition Sigma Nu for a charter, “We decided that our fraternity would not grant a charter to the entire crowd of gentlemen, and reported unfavorably. But I was so strongly impressed with the University of Illinois, its great facilities, its wonderful prospects for a gigantic school, that I decided that there was no better field for Sigma Nu labor, and at once set about to secure proper material to petition. On March 16 I took up my residence in Urbana, and set about immediately to see what could be done….When I visited Urbana in January, James F. Duffy, Jr., and Banus H. Prater were included in the proposed petitioners, and if the crowd had been anything like these two gentlemen, no doubt Sigma Nu would have granted the charter. It was with these, and around these, two men that Gamma Mu was built and brought into existence.” Cook stated that neither Duffy nor Prater knew business would be bringing Cook back to the area. One day, Duffy entered the Courier office and was surprised to see Cook there. According to Cook, they began to plan for a Sigma Nu chapter. With Duffy and Prater “as a nucleus, Gamma Mu grew to its present size. The selection of men was slow, for every one was given the closest scrutiny and the most careful consideration. The policy was, and shall continue to be Gamma Mu’s, ‘none but the best.’”

A petition book was created to send to Sigma Nu chapters and officers. On May 5, 1902, Cook sent out a note to the other chapters about the University of Illinois petition imploring speed because the search for housing would be a factor. A copy of the formal petition is in the Sigma Nu - Gamma Mu Chapter collection in the University of Illinois Archives.

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6 The Delta of Sigma Nu, August 1902, p. 47.
7 The Delta of Sigma Nu, August 1902, p. 49.
8 Courtesy of the University of Illinois Archives.
Once the votes were tallied, it was “decided early that it would be better to have the installation take place at the beginning of college next year, and September 19 was the time decided upon. But at the urgent request of some members of the High Council the men were initiated Friday, June 6, 1902. The house of Prof. and Mrs. Baker was turned over to us, and at about 9:30 p.m. Inspector Belfield, of Chicago, Bro. Frye, of Gamma Beta, and Bro. Cottingham, of Danville, IL, an old Beta Zeta man, and the writer (Cook) had gone to the third floor of the Baker residence, and the work began. The time was too short to notify any from a distance, and neither did we have sufficient time for an elaborate banquet. After the candidates had been given the secret work light refreshments were served. It was decided to keep the installation sub-rosa, and when college opens this fall an initiation and ‘house warming’ will be held, and at that time the announcement of the installation will be made.”

According to a report by Cecil Baker, “The petitioners had already rented an eleven room house for next year, and it was their expectation to be installed early in the fall. But for various reasons it seemed best not to delay the installation until then. So Gamma Mu chapter of Sigma Nu was installed June 7, 1902. There were ten men who pledged their love and honor to the secrets and welfare of Sigma Nu. A. Miller Belfield (Beta Zeta), Inspector of Division 7, was the installing officer, assisted by Vice Regent Cook (Beta Eta), Commander Frye (Gamma Beta), and C. W. Cottingham (Beta Zeta). On account of the short notice upon which the installation occurred no public demonstration was made at the time, but the Gamma Mu boys expect to entertain many alumni and active brothers from neighboring chapters early next fall.”

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9 Cecil and Ira Wesbter (Webb) Baker, the sons of Ira Osborn and Emma Baker, were Gamma Mu charter members.
10 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, August 1902, p. 52.
11 *The Story of Sigma Nu* (p. 414) indicated that the chapter was installed on June 7, 1902, even though participants stated that the men were initiated on June 6, 1912.
12 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, August 1902, p. 55.
The August 1902 Delta contained the first letter from the chapter, even though it had yet to make its formal debut on the Illinois campus. The letter stated, “Although we have been frat brothers for only a few weeks we feel that we have been Sigma Nus in spirit for several months. But who could be with Cook and not be enthusiastic for Sigma Nu? After receiving our charter our first action was to elect Cook as our ‘Chapter Dad,’ the acceptance of which makes us feel very proud….We have an eleven room house rented for next year, and the fellows are coming back early to settle and make plans for our first semester of frat life....Although our initiation is generally known of it has never been formally announced, which will be done the first week of school.”

On September 19, 1902, the chapter hosted an open house and house warming. It was rumored early last year that this fraternity had under consideration, a petition, and that a charter would in all probability be granted the petitioners. In fact a charter was granted and the chapter secretly installed on June 7th last, but no public announcement of the matter was made until last Friday night, Sept. 19, when, the formal installation took place at the chapter house, 70, 3 South Third street, Champaign.

Three members of the High Council, Cook, Ferd H. Heywood, and Clarence E. Woods, were in attendance. Cecil Baker, driving a carriage, met Heywood and Woods at the train and then to the Beardsley Hotel. Cook’s train from Chicago arrived two hours later, and the chapter met him there. As Cook left the train, “he was surrounded, and shaken, and patted, and thumped until his bulging jaws betokened distress and he loudly called for ‘more room, boys, more room!’”, when the committee fell back to give the corpulent and incomparable frater space to spread himself. One by one he addressed the charter members, calling them readily by name...just like one of ‘em, which elicited admiring remarks from the astonished onlookers, who were not fully aware of the intimate,
even affectionate, relationship existing between the new chapter and its beloved ‘Dad Cook.’ Arm in
arm the now thoroughly happy delegation wended its way to Gamma Mu’s home.”14

The chapter house was at 703 South Third Street in Champaign. After a house tour, Ralph M.
Carter15 and Ellis B. Hall16 were initiated by the High Council. They were “shown the mysteries of
Sigma Nu in an impressive manner, omitting the ‘Second Degree’ until a later meeting - as it was
essential that the new men should be seated at the banquet the next evening, instead of being so
disabled as to necessitate taking their repast off a mantlepiece!”17

Saturday began with some more house tours, horse and carriage tours of campus given by
Cecil Baker and a “pair of greys,” a football game, and a banquet for about 25 people at the
Beardsley Hotel. Cook served as Toastmaster and the menu featured fried spring chicken a la
Maryland.18 Woods’ wife gave the chapter “a beautiful satin banner” which “will always have a place
of honor on the chapter house walls.”19

That fall, eight Sigma Nus from the Purdue University chapter travelled to Champaign. They
reported on the visit, “we can truly say we have a fine crowd of boys there.”20

Although the chapter was proud of its rented house, there was no doubt that the men hoped
to someday own their own home. To this end, the chapter enacted a “by-law requiring that each
initiate pay $100 within four years after he leaves college, which shall go into a Chapter House fund.
This amount must be paid whether the initiate ever completes the course or not. The law applies to

14 The Delta of Sigma Nu, November 1902, 295.
15 The Delta of Sigma Nu, October 1936, p. 78. “Dr. Ralph M. Carter, distinguished orthopedic surgeon of Green Bay,
Wisconsin, is president of the State Medical Society of Wisconsin...In 1908 he took his M. D. degree at Rush Medical
School. He served as intern in the Cook County Hospital, Chicago, before taking up the practice of medicine in Green
Bay in 1910. Since 1925 he has done only orthopedic, bone and joint surgery.”
16 The Delta of Sigma Nu, November 1907, p. 278. “Ellis B. Hall... is employed as chemist for the Mo. Pac. Ry. He looks
up the Sigs in his travels and recently visited Founder Quarles at Helena, Ark.” Hall also served the Fraternity as an
officer.
17 The Delta of Sigma Nu, November 1902, p. 297.
18 The Delta of Sigma Nu, November 1902, p. 247.
19 The Delta of Sigma Nu, November 1902, p. 385.
20 The Delta of Sigma Nu, November 1902, p. 332.
initiates as well as graduates. The members of Gamma Mu Chapter have the right idea how a chapter should be managed and everything moves like clockwork.”21

A report from Cook in the May 1903 Delta announced, “The boys have let the contract or signed a lease for a large three-story house to be completed by Sept. 1. It is of their own design and will cost $18,000. Will room twenty men and will be modern in every particular. It will cost them $1,100 a year, and they lease it for ten years....Keeler will finance the proposition and, outside of Heywood, there is not a keener business man or financier in Sigma Nu than this man.”22 In the same issue, Cook told of an impromptu visit, “On my way to Chicago from Vincennes I stopped at Champaign, IL, for two days. Got there at 4 o'clock on Saturday, and Gamma Mu boys had given their annual dance the previous night. It cost them about $150; and by the time I landed in town the next day every bill was paid, and Keeler held receipts; caterer, flowers, cabs, music, hall rent - every item was squared, and, besides, the home rent was paid up to date, the furniture payment, and money besides. They bought about $265 worth of furniture last fall, and they will make the last payment in April. Such an exhibition of pluck and financing means my 'baby is ready to put on pants and play ball with the oldest and best.' Their annual on Friday night was the social function of the year. There are not many chapters, even old ones, which have so many all-round men as Gamma Mu.”23

A 1902 social event was described in detail, “Without doubt the swellest party given this year was that which the members of the Sigma Nu Fraternity gave at the home of Mrs. D.E. Coulson last Saturday evening. The house, which is so well adapted for entertaining, was very beautifully decorated throughout. The large reception hall, where the guests first assembled, was a bower of evergreen. Here Mr. O.S. Fowler, Mrs. D.E. Coulson, Mrs. K. Smith and Mrs. J.H. Baker received

21 The Delta of Sigma Nu, February 1903, p. 426.
22 The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1903, p. 649.
23 The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1903, p. 673.
the guests. Unique little heart tally cards designated the room in which the guests were to play. In room No. 1 the decorations were pennants and banners of various colleges. In room No. 2 an electric display was the main feature. The letters Sigma Nu in the colors, black, gold and white, were flashed on and off in first one color then another, making a very pretty color effect in the room. Room No. 3 was equally interesting in pictures and beautiful pillows. In rooms Nos. 1 and 3 there were five tables, and in room No. 2 there were six tables, so that ninety-six guests played cards, sixty-three being the game of the evening. Each room was managed individually, and the lady and gentleman of each room winning high scores won prizes, as also the lady and gentleman winning low received consolation gifts, there being twelve prizes in all given. The refreshments, consisting of ice and cake, were in the Sigma Nu colors, and each guest received with refreshments a beautiful pearl rose. Before adjourning every one present was given a heart, and told to take it to the ‘dread dragon’ concealed in a ‘pine cave’ in the hall. This was put into the serpent’s jaws, and when taken out a few minutes after had written upon it some prophecy as to the future happiness of the owner. At 12 o’clock the party broke up, thanking Mrs. Coulson and the Sigma Nu for a most delightful evening.”

During the spring 1903 semester, Fred Pegelow was elected Sophomore Class President, “The older fraternities here have formed two factions, one of which gave Pegelow their strong support, in fact their representatives nominated him.” In addition to the card party, the chapter gave an “at home” for the patronesses and their husbands. Before the holidays, Mrs. Busey, a patroness, “entertained the chapter and its lady friends delightfully at an informal party in her beautiful and spacious home. On February 6th we gave our first annual party, which was considered by everyone a success. Last month Mrs. Baker, another of our patronesses, entertained us at an informal dance. The chapter gave another the first of this month, and expect to close the season with a picnic and

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24 The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1903, p. 674.
dance. At the time of our last informal we were very much pleased to have Bro. Frye, of Gamma Beta, with us for several days, as we feel that it helps the chapter a great deal to get in close touch with our other chapters.”25

The news was broken that the chapter considered itself “exceedingly fortunate in obtaining a lease for a large new house being built this summer. The house will have large parlors and living rooms, with sleeping accommodations for twenty men, besides the matron and servants. The third floor is to be taken up entirely with a dance hall, which, we think, will be much more convenient and pleasant than public halls as well as more economical. The house is to be of pressed brick and is to be finished in hard wood throughout, and will contain all modern conveniences.”26

The chapter seemed to enjoy every visit made by Cook, “The thing which has helped and strengthened us most during the past few months was a visit from Regent Cook, our dear old ‘Dad.’ It is he who inspires the love for Sigma Nu in the heart of a new man, and it is also he who revives the ambitions of the older members of the chapter. Dad just gathered all the children around him and gave us a lesson in Sigma Nuism, which none will, or can, ever forget. It is after he leaves that we feel our weakness and renew our resolve to carry the standard of Sigma Nu to the very highest mark. Oh, that we may have him and other older and experienced brothers with us more often.”27

On May 8 and 9, 1903, the Fifth Division Convention took place in Galesburg, Illinois. Webster Baker was Gamma Mu’s delegate. It was reported at the convention that Gamma Mu has “arranged for a handsome, even palatial, chapter house, which it agrees to rent for ten years. This house is now under construction and will be occupied next fall. Gamma Mu reports that next September the chapter will be located in the largest and finest Fraternity house in Champaign.”28

25 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, May 1903, p. 726.
26 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, May 1903, p. 726.
27 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, May 1903, p. 727.
28 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, August 1903, p. 30.
Duffy and Prater graduated in 1903 and Prater was made a member of the faculty. He “will be with the boys. He has been elected commander and will room in the house.”29 He spent the year with the chapter and then took a job in Panama working on the canal.30

On October 30, 1903, the chapter opened its new home at 608 East Green Street with a formal dance. The chapter had its own dance hall on the third floor. The chapter gave an informal dance there in December and then again in January after the first semester’s end. On February 5, 1904, the chapter gave a smoker to the Glee and Mandolin Clubs.31 This announcement appeared in the Alumni Personals section of the February 1904 Delta, “Exquisitely engraved cards bearing the following, were issued recently: Gamma Mu of Sigma Nu Fraternity request the pleasure of your company at their Second Annual Party on the eighteenth day of March Nineteen hundred and four.”32 Thirty couples attended the “most brilliant affair.”33

The chapter boasted that the “unit of time we employ here, is the period between Cook’s visits! We are indeed thankful that he is no farther away than Chicago, and can run down frequently.”34 Cook spent several Sundays with the chapter. Six Gamma Mus travelled to Chicago for the installation of the Gamma Rho chapter at the University of Chicago.35

The chapter had nine rivals and two local fraternities on the Illinois campus. It was noted that the faculty took on “the attitude of desiring a lessening, in some degree, of the expenditures of time and money for social events. All the fraternities are working in harmony with the faculty in this matter and much real good will doubtless come of it.”36

29 The Delta of Sigma Nu, August 1903, p. 71.
30 The Delta of Sigma Nu, August 1904, p. 32.
31 The Delta of Sigma Nu, February 1904, p. 305.
32 The Delta of Sigma Nu, February 1904, p. 373.
33 The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1904, p. 471.
34 The Delta of Sigma Nu, February 1904, p. 306.
35 The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1904, p. 471.
36 The Delta of Sigma Nu, February 1904, p. 306.
A Christmas party took place on December 16, 1904, and was “much in the nature of a surprise to all the girls who attended. We danced until 11 o’clock, then went down to the parlors, where the girls were astonished to see an Xmas tree which had evidently sprouted during the previous dances. A real live, talkative and acrobatic Santa Claus was on hand, who bestowed an appropriate gift upon each one present. Not only Santa’s speech to each recipient, but the gifts in themselves occasioned much hilarity. The party broke up after light refreshments had been served and a flash light of the group had been taken.”

The spring 1905 semester was busy. The third Annual Party took place on March 17-19 with a formal dance in the house’s ballroom on the night of March 17. The house was decorated in “an artistic manner, pennants of many different universities and Greek letter societies being arranged about the rooms. University and Fraternity colors were used to produce the letters of the Fraternity, and an electric design representing the Fraternity’s monogram held a prominent place. The society’s colors, black, white and gold, and palms and Spanish moss assisted in adding to the attractiveness of the effect. The grand march, which began about 8:45 o’clock, was led by Frederick George Pegelow and Miss Vema Ricketts, of Charleston. Henry Beck Meyers and Miss Edna Gifford assisted. Parry’s orchestra of eight pieces furnished music for a dance program of twenty regular numbers and four extras. A five-course luncheon was served. The reception committee was composed of Dean and Mrs. T. A, Clark. The patronesses of the chapter are Mesdames G.A. Turell, A.P. Carman, F.D. Rugg, B.W. Breneman and G.W. Busey.”

The rest of the weekend was capped with a “cadet hop in the afternoon of the 18th, and a dinner and dance at the lodge in the evening; the 19th was spent in showing the visiting girls about the town.”

We are now looking forward to our informal dances on

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37 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, May 1905, p. 333.
38 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, May 1905, p. 374.
39 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, May 1905, p. 333.
the 21st of April and on the 27th of May, and also a smoker we are giving to the rest of the Greeks on the 22nd of April.”

In the summer of 1905, the chapter attended the Fifth Division meeting and it was noted that the chapter was “delighted with her new home after two years’ experience, and advises every chapter ‘to dig and get a home of its own!’” The chapter also lost one of its members. Ernest Albert Goodman died July 10, of typhoid fever. He was initiated on April 28, 1905, “so that we had his services for a short time only; but in this time he proved to be one of our strongest men. His very name, Earnest-A.-Good-Man, expresses to every one that knew him what he really was.”

During the week of October 14-21, 1905 President Edmund J. James was installed as the president of the University of Illinois. “The student event of the week was parade, in which 2,500 students took part. Bro. H. B. Myers, our Eminent Commander, was the student manager. This parade was acknowledged by our visitors as being the greatest they had ever seen.”

Two of the chapter’s 26 members were invited to join Sigma Xi, the science honorary. The chapter lost six seniors to graduation in June 1906. About the chapter’s annual house party during commencement week, it was said, “perhaps it was not quite so elaborate as the annual house party a year ago. Three alumni, Brothers Pegelow, Keeler and Gregory, were there a part of the week, and besides the seniors, a half dozen underclassmen stayed for the event. The party was chaperoned by Dean and Mrs. Clarke, Mrs. Mehren, Mrs. Myers and our patronesses in the two cities. A picnic the Band Prom, an informal dance at the Chapter house, and the crowning event—the Senior Ball at the University Armory were parts of the program. ‘Jack’ Myers and Earl McCoy announced their engagements. To show their appreciation, the house party girls presented the Chapter with a

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40 The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1905, p. 333.
41 The Delta of Sigma Nu, October 1905, p. 5.
42 The Delta of Sigma Nu, February 1906, p. 158.
43 The Delta of Sigma Nu, February 1906, p. 154.
handsome electric drop light.” Before the end of the semester, the chapter had a farewell banquet to
the seniors, “a custom instituted two years ago at Gamma Mu.”

Before the chapter house opened for the 1906-07 year it underwent “a lot of repairs -
papering, and re-furnishing, and is beginning to look like an entirely different place.” The Grand
Chapter meeting took place in Chicago from December 31, 1906-January 2, 1907. The chapter “was
quite proud of her large representation at the Grand Chapter. Almost half the total number of men
initiated by this chapter were present. The Illinois Sigs had four tables in the center of the hall at the
banquet.”

A diphtheria outbreak had the chapter quarantined during final examination time in January
1907. However it appeared things got back to normal quickly as the chapter did a good deal of
entertaining that spring with several informal dances and two formals and a house party at
commencement. During Commencement Week the chapter members moved “out of the house
and turn it over to our lady friends, who are usually chaperoned by parents of graduating ‘Sigs.’ The
affair continues through three or four days, during which time our friends are entertained at picnics,
dances, informal dinners, etc. The crowning event, of course, is the Senior Ball.”

The report in The Delta gave some insight into the chapter culture, “It is our belief that to have
an ideal chapter every man must work, and work hard, to further the interests of such chapter. We
further believe that every ‘Sig’ is capable of ‘making good’ in some phase of University life, - either
along lines of scholarship, athletics or society, and many of them along all three. The more able men
we have in each field the better for the chapter and the fraternity as a whole.”

44 The Delta of Sigma Nu, August 1906, p. 76.
45 The Delta of Sigma Nu, November 1906, p. 315.
46 The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1907, p. 793.
47 The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1907, p. 793.
48 The Delta of Sigma Nu, August 1907, p. 91.
49 The Delta of Sigma Nu, August 1907, p. 91.
Football star Bertram Cleal was initiated on September 13, 1907. Nine men were initiated in October 1907. A banquet was held at the chapter house after that initiation. There were several Sigma Nus on the faculty, “George W. Pickels, of Gamma Iota, (Ky. State), has been appointed a member of the faculty in the Civil Engineering Department and is warmly welcomed by this chapter. Brothers Thomas and Gregory, who were on the faculty last year, still retain their positions and take their meals with us.”\(^{50}\) The first informal party took place on October 18. It was held in the dance hall at the chapter house, “Several out-of-town ‘Sigs’ and their lady friends were here for the party and attended the Chicago-Illinois game on the day following. The frat reserved a section on the bleachers and every man was there with his ‘Sunday girl.’ Our patronesses were also invited and altogether we had a most enjoyable time.”\(^{51}\)

The chapter boasted that the “finances of the chapter are in excellent shape. Last year, thanks to the excellent management of Brother Grant, we did not lose a cent. At present about thirty-three men are boarding at the house and every room is filled. Brother Grant is a captain in the University regiment, while Brother Jones, the winner of the Hazelton Prize in last years’ individual competitive drill, has been appointed Regimental Sergeant Major. Brothers Shaw and Pickering are the representatives in the Helmet Club, the Sophomore inter-fraternity organization. Brother Spafford is a member of Ku-Klux, a similar organization of the Junior Class. Brother Grant is president of Shield and Trident, a senior society. Brother F.G. Pegelow,\(^{52}\) inspector of this division, came down from Chicago to attend our party and go to the game. ‘Peg’ is always a welcome visitor, and his visits are looked forward to with pleasure.”\(^{53}\)

The report in the February 1908 Delta is a bit curious, “George M. Cook, past regent of the fraternity, is spending a few days with us... As this is a very uncertain period, we hesitate to make any

\(^{50}\) *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, November 1907, p. 232.

\(^{51}\) *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, November 1907, p. 233.

\(^{52}\) Fred Pegelow was a charter member of Gamma Mu who went on to serve the Fraternity.

\(^{53}\) *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, November 1907, p. 232.
announcements, but by the next time we write for publication we hope to be able to reveal some startling facts.”54 The May Delta unveiled a little of the mystery, “Our annual party in February was a success. The Alumni Reunion, held on the 10th of April, was fertile in that two of the alumni found it possible to be here to meet the freshmen and Dad Cook. We were advised that we needed backbones and not wishbones if we would have Sigma Nu dwell in a lodge of its own at Illinois. Steps have been taken to purchase property and we hope to secure a desirable site before we disband in June.”55

The members were busy men, “Dave Grant has been elected president of the senior class and represents the chapter as a successful politician. Lloyd Jones has been initiated into Ku Klux, a junior fraternity; Ferdinand Snider into ‘Shield and Trident,’ a senior organization, and Spencer Otis and Morris Hecker have been taken into Helmet, a sophomore aggregation.”56

In the six years since the chapter was founded, 80 men had been initiated or were affiliated from other chapters. The chapter was planning to compile a directory of the members, “We will print this at least once a year and will print notices of changes or corrections as we receive them. The aid of the alumni is solicited in making this catalogue practical.”57

An Inter-scholastic week took place in the spring. The house was filled “with visiting brethren and the usual aggregation of famous as well as notorious high school talent. Chauncey Alcott, Rabbit Weston, Gamma Beta, Webb Hopkins’ brother, Ben Burgess’ brother, and Lyle Pickering and Willett Vernon’s brother, with delegations from their respective high schools, inscribed their names on the chapter house register.” The festivities began with “the May-pole dance, which consisted of the scintillating and dazzling movements of the five hundred dainty damsel of the University. The exhibition, after the usual fashionable delay, lasted two hours, and all of the ten thousand spectators

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54 The Delta of Sigma Nu, February 1908, p. 519.
55 The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1908, p. 713.
56 The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1908, p. 713.
57 The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1908, p. 819.
were delighted. Some slapped their knees and insisted that never before had such beauty and talent been combined, while others tucked their quid in their cheek and swore by all that was low and irreverent, that the exhibition was the non-pareil. Dave Grant attended the dance and with the aid of his binoculars, with which he alone had had the presence of mind to provide himself, he was able to find the Queen of the May. As he focused his glasses on her, a slight expression of recognition stole over his face and then he sank into a delightful calm and watched the dance in quiet ecstasy.\(^58\)

The chapter had its farewell informal on May 22, 1908. A week later, on May 29, the chapter had its Annual Senior spread, “Everybody responded to a toast and, incidentally the subscription to our building fund was increased to three thousand dollars.”\(^59\)

The 1908-09 academic year opened on September 22, 1908 with 21 men responding to roll call. The first informal party was set for October 10 and the annual fall formal party for October 10. There were four Sigma Nu men on the faculty - George Washington Pickels, Jr., Frank Thomas, Dr. Chiles and Dr. Grinnell Jones.\(^60\) Ben Nelson,\(^61\) in his chapter report stated, “It is a pleasure indeed to be able to say that Gamma Mu’s seventh successful ‘rushing season’ finds her maintaining her usual high position among the chapters of the 15 strong national fraternities.”\(^62\) A Gamma Mu was Editor-in-Chief of the \textit{lllio} yearbook and another was Senior Class Vice-President. A chapter house of Gamma Mu’s own must have been the talk of all events where alumni and active members met, “Our house proposition is going ahead slowly. Some of the alumni have sent in their notes, but there are still a good many of them sent out that have not as yet been returned. It is quite apparent

\(^{58}\) The Delta of Sigma Nu, August 1908, p. 923.
\(^{59}\) The Delta of Sigma Nu, August 1908, p. 925.
\(^{60}\) The Delta of Sigma Nu, November 1908, p. 368.
\(^{61}\) At the chapter’s 75th anniversary, Ben Nelson was the oldest alumnus present according to The Delta of Sigma Nu, Fall 1977, p. 30.
\(^{62}\) The Delta of Sigma Nu, November 1909, p. 197.
that Gamma Mu will need a new house of her own in a few years, and it is just as apparent that this can only be accomplished by the ardent support of each and every alumnus.”

The alumni were invited to the Annual event on February 29, 1910. The chapter won second prize in the bowling competition and a Senior Ball house party was planned for graduation on June 12, 1910. Twelve couples attended the house party. Roy Miller represented the alumni. It was “a peculiarly successful house party, for in spite of the fact that we had but one chaperon and that no engagements were announced, the girls all pronounced the time ‘wonderful.’”

The chapter held a reunion during the summer of 1910. On June 2, 1910, the men voted to incorporate a chapter house association. A year earlier, this move was begun by the active chapter. Payments “to the extent of $1,500 have been made on two lots located at the South east corner of 3rd and John St. The incorporation is to be effected in order to place the house proposition on a permanent basis and as much as possible in the form of a permanent organization. The incorporation details are being arranged this summer by brothers Pegelow, Foskett, Jordan, Jones and Savage.” In addition to the Gamma Mu reunion, the Fifth Division Convention took place June 3-5, 1910. It was reported that “as early as Thursday alumni started to roll (figuratively speaking) in, and by Friday night the list was over twenty names long. Besides these some fourteen brothers came to attend the convention. The dance was all that we expected and the banquet even more. Bro. Pegelow was toastmaster, and Grand Treasurer Pegues headed the toast list.. It was one ‘big time and we didn’t get home until morning.’ On Sunday morning we threshed out our house proposition and it looks now as if Gamma Mu would have her home in a short time. The outlook for next year is good.”

63 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, February 1910, p. 354.
64 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, February 1910 p. 354.
65 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, November 1910, p. 236.
66 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, August 1910, p. 129.
67 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, November 1910, p. 237.
From October 14-16, 1910, the University of Illinois celebrated its first Fall Home Coming.\textsuperscript{68} The chapter held a reunion and an initiation, “All the old men from number one up were informed of the great Fall Home Coming and Gamma Mu expected a good many. Many were the attractions too. The 1000 per cent baseball team played a bunch of pickled old Illinois Stars and whipped them. The old-time renowned Hobo Band broke loose. The annual Inter-Class track meet was held, the freshmen walking away with the banner. The Freshmen were also victorious in the Push Ball contest...Gamma Mu held initiation on Friday evening, and towards midnight held the initiation banquet, around which forty-nine Sigs gathered. Never before had so many Sigs from Gamma Mu chapter returned to feast and visit their old place at the same time. After dinner the toastmaster called upon them all for little talks and advices. Those heard from were Bros. ‘Dad’ Cook, Jeter, ‘Chick’ O’Connell, ‘Red’ Cleal, Roy Miller, Jack Myers, Jimmy Bristow, Pegelow, Dave Grant, Hock Hassenstein, McClain, Prof. Geo. W. Pickels (Z-G. Iota), Brigadier Jones, Pickering, O. Shuck, Doc. Seger, Pemberton, ‘Fiz’ Walk, H. Bash, ‘Bobby’ Robbins, Graham H. Curly, Howard Bent, and Bros. Reisner, from Gamma Beta, and Bevens from Gamma Rho. Bro. Savage gave us a little enlightenment regarding the new house, and we sincerely hope that all will put their shoulders to the wheel and push. Bro. Baker dropped in on us yesterday and showed us plans of our prospective home, but, of course that is looking into the future.”\textsuperscript{69} Illinois defeated Chicago in football 3 to 0 and Gamma Mus Harold Lanum and Frank Kubat were on the football team.\textsuperscript{70}

Several alumni attended the fall formal on November 19, 1910. The Inter-Fraternity Smoker was held January 21, 1911 “and the warm inter-fraternity feeling for which Illinois is noted was quite

\textsuperscript{68} Home Coming is the way it was spelled when it appeared in \textit{The Delta} for the first time. The Homecoming celebration at the University of Illinois was the first one mentioned in \textit{The Delta}. By the time it was mentioned again in a Gamma Mu report it became Home-coming and then Homecoming.
\textsuperscript{69} \textit{The Delta of Sigma Nu}, November 1910, p. 236.
\textsuperscript{70} \textit{The Delta of Sigma Nu}, May 1911, p. 636.
At the start of the 1911-12 year, there were 22 members in Gamma Mu. The chapter rushed 11 pledges and “After a stiff initiation lasting ten days, and ending with the Annual Initiation Banquet on October 7th, ten of these men donned the badge.”73 The second annual fall Homecoming took place on the weekend of November 25, 1911. Illinois was victorious over Minnesota 11-0. About 20 alumni attended the activities which included a smoker with a few vaudeville stunts.74

Having members involved on intercollegiate teams was important and throughout most of its history, Gamma Mu’s athletes and lettermen were noted in reports to The Delta. Those members, such as Herbert R. Hedman, Varsity Track manager, “added another ‘I’ to the house.”75

The chapter was about a decade old and keeping alumni connected seemed to be a continuing priority, especially in light of the talk of the chapter purchasing a home of its own. Alumni contributions and support could help the chapter reach that goal. A Gamma Mu Directory was published and two letters to chapter alumni were in the plans.76 Alumni were invited to the March 8, 1912 party.77 They were also reminded that “the door bell is out of order, so walk in and take a seat, and put your feet on the piano, any old time.”78

Two members, Franklin Vandervort and Paul Pickering became ill with typhoid fever, and had to go home.79 On March 1, 1912, Thomas Godfrey Burgess died and the chapter published a

71 The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1911, p. 636.
72 Sigma Nu - Gamma Mu collection, Courtesy of the University of Illinois Archives.
73 The Delta of Sigma Nu, November 1911, p. 105.
74 The Delta of Sigma Nu, February 1912, p. 413.
75 The Delta of Sigma Nu, August 1911, p. 65.
76 The Delta of Sigma Nu, August 1911, p. 64.
77 The Delta of Sigma Nu, February 1912, p. 463.
78 The Delta of Sigma Nu, November 1911, p. 105.
79 The Delta of Sigma Nu, February 1912, p. 413.
resolution in the May 1912 Delta, as was the custom when a chapter lost a member during the early years of the 1900s.

The 1912-13 academic year saw some changes to the pledging period. A “Pan Hellenic ruling has gone into effect prohibiting the initiation of Freshmen pledges until after they have passed eleven hours of university work. This ruling has been passed as a means of promoting scholastic tendency among the Freshmen.”\(^8\) Nine men were pledged that fall. They formed a “freshman pledge chapter” and met weekly to discuss matters of freshmen interest. On Sunday Oct. 20, 1912, the pledges hosted a dinner for the chapter’s patrons and patronesses.\(^8\) One pledge was initiated on January 20, 1913, followed by six who were initiated on March 1. The last two were initiated on April 16. The chapter “adopted the new ritual for the initiatory ceremonies, and it made a deep impression upon the old men, as well as upon the new members.”\(^8\) The tenth annual party took place on March 14, 1913, and the ballroom was decorated to resemble a summer garden.\(^8\)

Talk of a chapter-owned house began to surface again, “We have recently inaugurated a campaign by which we are trying to arouse the interest of our alumni in our House Proposition. Things at present are not as encouraging as we should like them to be, but by fall we expect to see the House Proposition boom.”\(^8\)

Frank H. Thorne, who would later play a major role in the music of Sigma Nu, reported on the chapter’s activities for the 1913-14 year. The week before the semester began, 10 members spent a week working on the chapter house at 106 East Green Street. They cleaned the house “from top to bottom, and with all the rooms repapered, and the generous use of the varnish brush, the old

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\(^8\) The Delta of Sigma Nu, November 1912, p. 263.
\(^8\) The Delta of Sigma Nu, November 1912, p. 264.
\(^8\) The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1913, p. 606.
\(^8\) The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1913, p. 606.
\(^8\) The Delta of Sigma Nu, August 1913, p. 51.
place was made to look like new.” More University regulations were put into place and dances were limited to two per semester. A new chapter office, House Manager, was created to take care of “all repairs and matters in connection with the upkeep of the house and furnishings.” The fall semester's GPA was 82.04% giving the chapter ninth place honors. The chapter also spent some time in quarantine due to a member contracting diphtheria.

Forty-two members - 22 actives, 11 pledges and 9 transfers - comprised the chapter. Brother Green was a “colonel of the largest cadet military brigade in the United States. Brother Philgard is a first lieutenant; Brother Calhoun, a battalion sergeant major; Brother Seigmund, a first sergeant, and Brother Ayres, a sergeant in the battery.” The chapter's financial situation was mentioned in the February 1915 Delta chapter report, “There seems to be a fine, strict financial system at Gamma Mu. However, two men owe the chapter $148. The alumni owe $700. Local debt of $300, and no surplus at the end of the year.”

About 5,000 students were registered at the University for the 1915-16 year. A fifth of them were women. The 21-7 Homecoming victory over the University of Chicago had several Gamma Mus involved in the play; Captain Ralph Chapman made All-Conference, All-Western and All-American teams. Jack Watson was elected captain of the 1915 team. Brothers Harold Pogue, George Clark, Perry Graves, George Squier, and Bart Macomber were also commended for their efforts. The alumni who attended “once more enjoyed ‘Sophie’s’ fine table and the midnight sessions around the grate fire.”

On December 4, 1914, the chapter had a “Hard Times Party.” It was followed on December 21 by the annual Christmas banquet. Each member “had to buy a ten-cent present and write a poem

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85 The Delta of Sigma Nu, November, 1913, p. 46.
86 The Delta of Sigma Nu, February 1914, p. 127.
87 The Delta of Sigma Nu, November 1914, p. 68.
89 The Delta of Sigma Nu, November 1915, p. 54.
about the person whose name he drew. The Freshmen took this as a great chance to get back at the upperclassmen and as a result some ‘rich’ poetry was forthcoming.90

The annual Formal that was to be held April 16, 1915, was cancelled and a less expensive Informal was planned instead. Of the 600 men who graduated in June 1915, 20 were chosen for Ma-Wan-Da, the honorary senior society. Three of the six graduating Gamma Mu seniors, M.C. “Mac” Booze, Joseph N. Greene,91 and J.H. Kircher were chosen for membership.92

These chapter rules published in The Delta allude to some situations which may have impacted life at the Gamma Mu chapter house:

Chapter Rules
Section I.
1. Those members in charge of the house and who are responsible for the property therein contained are as provided in the by-laws of the Chapter and the National Fraternity. The duties of these officers are those provided in said laws and as hereinafter provided.

Section II.
2. Between the hours of 7 P.M. and 7 A.M. of the first five days of the calendar week there shall be no noises or disturbances in the chapter house.
Any man, irrespective of fraternity rank, has the power to require the cessation of any noises or disturbances which may occur during the week, which, in his opinion, interfere with his scholastic work.
3. The congregating of men in any of the rooms of the house during the hours mentioned in Sec. II, art. 1, shall not be permitted.
4. During the hours set forth by Sec. II, art. 1, no members or pledges shall sit before the fireplace except when the presence of a visitor requires it.

Section III.
1. Card playing in the chapter house is prohibited on Sunday.
2. Dancing in the chapter house on Sunday is prohibited.
3. Tobacco chewing in the hallways, parlors, stairways, and dance hall of the chapter house is prohibited.
4. There shall be no smoking in the dining room in the presence of ladies.
5. There shall be no smoking in the dance hall at any time.
6. There shall be no smoking in the second floor halls or in the stairway leading to the dance hall during the giving of any dance.

90 The Delta of Sigma Nu, November 1915, p. 54.
91 An article in The Delta of Sigma Nu, October 1936, p. 80, updated readers on Greene’s life, “Joseph Nathaniel Greene is the full name of the Vice-President and Director of the Federal Water Service Corporation, with his office at 90 Broad Street, New York, but to Gamma Mu alumni of the University of Illinois, he is still Joe Greene, even though he is director of ten gas, water, service and electric companies.”
92 The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1915, p. 83.
7. ‘Rough-housing’ in the dormitory after 6 P.M. is prohibited.
8. Swearing in the dining room during any meal shall be punishable by fine of five cents per word. Such fines must be paid at the time incurred and placed in the receptacle furnished by the chapter. The disposition of all such money so collected shall be by vote of the chapter in regular meeting.
9. The bringing into the house of spirituous liquors at any time during the calendar year is prohibited. (For medicinal purposes only upon the permission of the Commander.) Violators shall be punished by a fine of $10.00 and suspension for a period of not more than four months nor less than two months. (‘Suspension’ defined in the Chapter By-Laws.)
10. At no time during the calendar year shall women be brought into the chapter house for immoral purposes. Violators shall be fined $15.00 and suspension for a period of not more than four months nor less than two.
11. Gambling of all kinds is prohibited at all times in the chapter house. If there be any doubt as to whether the act constitutes gambling the Commander’s decision shall be final. Vote of the Chapter shall determine the punishment for the violation of this paragraph.
12. A woman’s name shall never be the topic for indecent conversation.

Section IV.
1. All men living in the house shall keep their rooms in an orderly condition.
2. It is unlawful for any man to take food or other things from the ice box at any time.
3. At any time when a light or lights are found burning in an unoccupied study room the said light or lights shall be confiscated by whoever shall find such lights. The confiscated lights shall be turned in at once to the treasurer who shall require the owner or owners to pay a fine of twenty-five cents per globe. If such fine or fines are not paid they shall be entered in the books of the treasurer and shall be subject to all laws covering accounts as provided in the By-Laws.
4. Electric light or bell wiring once put into any room shall become a part of that room and may not be removed by any man with the purpose of using it in another room.
5. Door locks once put on any door to the study room shall become a part of that room and shall never be removed by any man with the purpose of using the lock or locks on any other door. If the original purchaser of the lock should move out of the house he shall not be permitted to remove the lock or locks purchased by him.
6. Any member or pledge who shall deface or injure any chapter property shall replace at once all such property.
7. No member or pledge of the chapter shall be permitted to eat dinner in the dining room of the house without a clean, stiff, white, linen collar, unless permission is first gained from the Commander or the Lieutenant Commander.
8. No member or pledge shall be allowed in the dining room at any meal with a bath robe on.
9. Any member or pledge getting anything to eat in the kitchen is required to wash and return to their proper places all dishes and table ware.

Section V.
1. Changes and amendments may be made to these Rules by majority vote of the Chapter in regular meeting assembled.93

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93 The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1915, p. 30.
There were 15 pledges at the start of the 1915-16 year. Two of the pledges were from local organizations at other schools, “Pledge Dillenback is an instructor in architectural design, who came here from Carnegie Tech and is a member of the group which is petitioning Sigma Nu. Pledge Robinson is an assistant in Bacteriology, who came here from Maryland Agricultural College and is a member of Gamma Pi, which is also petitioning Sigma Nu.” The pattern of social activities included three informals and a spring formal.

Eminent Commander Frank Thorne’s “The Story of a Splendid Rejuvenation” was published in the March 1916 *Delta*. It fills in a few of the blanks on the reasons for some of the chapter rules. Thorne wrote, “At the time of my pledging (fall 1912) this chapter was in a rather bad condition. A great amount of money was outstanding among the alumni, the chapter was badly in debt, the scholastic average was very low, and but few men were out in university activities….Then came the big change. For the first time in years the books were audited, and the exact nature of conditions were brought to light, and I know that it was as much a shock to the older men as it was to me as a pledge. Something had to be done at once, and something was done, and a campaign started for the betterment of things in general. Rigid rules were passed and enforced, with the result that the scholastic average went soaring up amongst the highest in school, the financial standing climbed so high that a savings account of no small proportions was started as a sinking fund, and there are now but few organizations on the campus in which we are not represented.” He outlined how the changes were made, “it took a great amount of hard work and time on the part of all of us. In the first place, rules were passed and rigidly enforced so that it made it fearfully hard on the active men to let their house bills go unpaid. Every cent was watched, until the whole chapter was instilled with the idea of saving money. A committee was appointed to collect alumni debts, and, thanks to the fact that they went after this money for all that they were worth, a large amount of it was collected in

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94 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, January 1916, p. 93.
a surprisingly short time. The old idea that seemed to have gripped the chapter, of ‘brotherly love,’ was absolutely killed when it came to financial matters, not that harmony was not kept in the chapter.” Study hours were regulated and members were encouraged to become involved in campus activities. Fellowship with other fraternities was encouraged. “The idea that every fraternity in school was a good one, and that the mere difference of name had no bearing on the question, was impressed upon every one, and it was but a short time before we had as good friends outside of the house as we had in it.”

Thorne’s comments were echoed by The Delta Editor John C. Scott. He visited the chapter and made these observations, “The freshmen at Gamma Mu are made to feel from the first that the house is their own particular home and that each man in the chapter is an individual host…. Another point worth considering is the singing of the chapter….when Gamma Mu starts to sing it is worth listening to. Their voices and their songs are no better than yours; in fact most of the songs are the same ones your chapter, and every other chapter, hums now and then. But at Illinois the singing seems part of the system and it is not left to two or three of the specially talented Brothers…They are simply a crowd of ‘regular fellows,’ even as you and I, but some wise head has taught them the wonderful lesson of watching for the little things, and they pass the lesson on to the freshmen.” Thorne, no doubt, had a part in the singing.

The chapter ranked fifth among 30 fraternities. Talk was again turning to that of a new house, “After many years of inactivity, the house proposition was given a big boom, and now we feel almost certain that we will be in a new house next year...Probably the easiest way to express the chapter’s real comparative position among the organizations at Illinois, is to repeat a remark that was made by T.A. Clark, Dean of Men at Illinois, who said that along with one other organization here,

95 The Delta of Sigma Nu, March 1916, p. 243.
96 The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1916, p. 274.
Gamma Mu Chapter of Sigma Nu had done more for its own betterment and advanced itself more in the past year than any other organization that he had ever had the opportunity to observe.\textsuperscript{97}

The October 1916 \textit{Delta} included a long article on rushing by the Illinois Dean of Men, Thomas Arkle Clark, who made the comment which was referenced above. Campus rushing rules had also changed. An “Interfraternity agreement forbids pledging before prospect arrives at the university with the intention of registering. At the suggestion of the Interfraternity Council, the faculty decrees that eleven hours’ work must be successfully passed before initiation.”\textsuperscript{98}

Humphreys Siegmund, Eminent Commander, wrote a report for the May 1917 \textit{Delta}, “When one considers that the entire personnel of a college fraternity changes every four years, little wonder is it that the conditions within such an organization are continually being altered. I was taken into Gamma Mu Chapter nearly four years ago, at a time when the chapter was laboring under the pressure of financial and scholastic encumbrances. Since that time it has been my pleasure to see this chapter gradually free itself of these burdens until today I wonder at the remarkable transition. Perhaps the most important factor to aid in the regulation of this chapter’s welfare was the establishment of a sound financial system. I cannot but take this opportunity of using my chapter as a recommendation for the uniform accounting system.”\textsuperscript{99} Siegmund also mentioned that the chapter had plans for a new house “which they hope to have next fall. During the past eighteen months the active men have personally appropriated $3,200 toward the building fund. ‘A new house or bust’ was the slogan that prompted the men to raise this sum of money. The chapter is at present in a healthy condition. The finances are excellent; there are no outstanding debts, and a substantial bank balance is on hand. The scholastic average for the semester just passed was 82.05, or eighth among thirty-

\textsuperscript{97} \textit{The Delta of Sigma Nu}, May 1916, p. 442.
\textsuperscript{98} \textit{The Delta of Sigma Nu}, October 1916, p. 25.
\textsuperscript{99} \textit{The Delta of Sigma Nu}, May 1917, p. 554.
five national fraternities. The house proposition is becoming something more tangible than a fleeting fancy or a pipe dream.”

At the start of the 1917-18 year, the chapter found itself without its rented house. The war situation left the men unable to figure out who would be back. When it was time to sign the lease, they had no idea if they could make ends meet financially. The owner leased the house to someone else. Luckily, the Pi Beta Phi chapter had moved into their new home at 1005 South Wright Street and the Gamma Mus were able to lease Pi Phi’s previous house at 807 South Third Street. The men who moved in to the house pledged 11 men. Due to the war, the university had a 20% decline in registration. For their part in the war effort, the chapter purchased a Liberty Bond and made Tuesday’s meals meatless. Of the chapter’s alumni who were serving in the armed forces, about half of them were aviators.

The pledges were initiated the week before Christmas due to a new University ruling. By the spring 1918 semester, the chapter was down to 16 members. Six men had dropped out to serve in the military. America’s entry into World War I on April 6, 1917 put thoughts of building a house on hold.

A short blurb in the December 1917 Delta tells the story of two Sigma Nus, James R. Gibson, Gamma Mu, and Rex Bush, Beta Zeta, who “met in a little surprise party. Each had applied for a commission in the aviation corps and were summoned to Chicago for examination the same day. There they discovered the other was a Sigma Nu and the officer in charge swore them together, although ‘single file’ is the usual order.” The Aviation Ground School was at the University and Humphreys Siegmund and Maurice “Molly” Reagan were instructors in gas engines and machine guns, respectively. When a Sigma Nu from another chapter was identified, he was encouraged to

100 The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1917, p. 554.
101 The Delta of Sigma Nu, December 1917, p. 258.
102 The Delta of Sigma Nu, December 1917, p. 204.
visit the chapter house. Although these aviators had little spare time, they were invited to a weekly Sunday afternoon open house.\textsuperscript{103}

According to a report in the May 1918 Delta, “The Building Association owns, free from debt, two of the finest lots along Fraternity Row. This Chapter, in spite of its hardships, has maintained all its activities and its financial integrity, both locally and with the General Office.”\textsuperscript{104}

A week before the 1918-19 year began, students received notice that the opening of the semester was postponed until September 30 because of the Student Army Training Corps (S.A.T.C.), “Work began and preparations were under way to take care of 5,000 students. Courses were changed to conform to the new regime, a new second floor was put in the Armory, where 1,200 men are to be quartered, and the lower floor was made into a mess hall for the entire S.A.T.C. It was almost entirely due to the formation of this new branch of the service that the Chapter started off this school year with twelve men back. The greater part of the men had expected to be voluntarily or involuntarily inducted into the service so that until the creation of this new branch of the service very few of the men considered it worthwhile starting back to school.”\textsuperscript{105} The chapter hoped that they could fill the house and “keep our House intact as a Fraternity House, except that it would be at the disposal of the Government and all the men in the service. For the first few weeks we were able to do this, as our quota was thirty-three, and having pledged sixteen men who, with the ‘old men,’ practically filled it. Now it is a certainty that we will be obliged to take up temporary quarters in which our meetings may be carried on and in which we can gather at our very few leisure hours. In a short time provision will be made for quartering some of the men in the Armory. All S.A.T.C. men will eat there. It happens that the greater part of the Chapter will be quartered in the Armory. The prospects of carrying out a normal fraternity year are entirely gone. The House as we now

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\textsuperscript{103} The Delta of Sigma Nu, March 1918, p. 682.
\textsuperscript{104} The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1918, p. 796.
\textsuperscript{105} The Delta of Sigma Nu, December 1918, p. 253.
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occupy it is under military supervision, with reveille at six-thirty and taps at ten o’clock. Having decided to make an attempt to pledge men to fill our quota of thirty-three men, we started off with the old time ‘pep’ and pledged sixteen men without lowering the standard of former years in the least. This year it was a question of hours instead of days or weeks, and we were lucky to pledge several talented men.”

With the chapter house was taken over by the military, the chapter moved to a suite of furnished rooms in the Robison Building in the business section of Champaign. “Here the chapter gathered together, when possible, usually only on weekends, and kept up our Fraternal spirit. Regular meetings were impossible and the result was that our meetings were few and far between.” The rooms “made a fine place for the fellows to go and forget military life.”

When the the first quarter began, the United States was still at war. Armistice Day, November 11, 1918, changed everything. When the second quarter started, the chapter moved back into the house at 807 South Third Street. The S.A.T.C. military training “which was of so much importance last quarter lost all its popularity, and now is only taught on the old R.O.T.C. plan.”

During the first quarter, social functions were nearly impossible. After Armistice Day, the chapter “began planning for three dances. The high scholastic average set last year is being maintained. Financially there are very few Fraternities on the campus who are in such good standing as Sigma Nu. The House is filled with a fine bunch of fellows. The Chapter continues to conform to all its by-laws to the letter.”

Once things returned to normal, there were 31 men in the chapter. A sleeping porch was added to the house. A new home, owned by the chapter, was becoming a reality. The Chapter gave

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106 The Delta of Sigma Nu, December 1918, p. 253.
107 The Delta of Sigma Nu, March 1919, p. 433.
108 The Delta of Sigma Nu, March 1919, p. 433.
109 The Delta of Sigma Nu, March 1919, p. 434.
110 The Delta of Sigma Nu, March 1919, p. 434.
$500 to the House fund in addition to the $350 Liberty Bond. The quarter ended March 21, and the chapter was “in rather bad shape for examinations as we just got out of a week’s diphtheria quarantine for which Brother LaBier was responsible.”

A sad note was the December 4, 1919 death of pledge Lloyd K. Bartholomew, a member of the S.A.T.C. Pneumonia following an attack of influenza was the cause of his death. The chapter also learned that First Lieutenant Eric Frederick Pihlgard died in Differdange, Luxembourg on February 28, 1919. A member of the 61st Infantry, 5th Division, Army of Occupation, he was wounded in the Meuse-Argonne battle. Influenza developed and pneumonia killed him, too. Lieutenant Thomas R. Gibson was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in action near Soissons, France.

Seventy-two hundred students were enrolled for the 1919-20 academic year and the campus was back on a semester system. The chapter roll was nearing 50 and the members were looking forward to living in a new home. They were living in “temporary quarters, consisting of one house, rather small for our present enrollment, and the lower floor of another house, both, however, being located conveniently near the campus.”

There were 38 active members and seven pledges during the spring semester. The chapter was one of the largest on campus. On January 10, 1920, the new chapter house at 303 East John Street was dedicated with an informal dance. After many years of “dreaming, scraping and talking, we have at last moved into our new home and now have full possession of the same….the house being

111 The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1919, p. 639.
112 The Delta of Sigma Nu, March 1919, p. 434.
113 The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1919, p. 710.
114 The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1919, p. 398.
115 The Delta of Sigma Nu, December 1919, p. 257.
designed by us, for us, put up by us, furnished by us and lived in by us, naturally we feel proud of it.”  

The House Corporation was formed in 1908. Each member who was initiated automatically became a member. Upon initiation, each member signed a note for $100; $40 was payable during the man’s time in the chapter. The other $60 was to be paid in four $15 installments yearly. In 1908, the House Corporation contracted for two lots 127 x 102 feet at $3,500, and paid for them during the subsequent eight years. Alumni contributions also helped pay for the lots. Members in the architectural school made and remade plans for the structure, and “the final plans were being perfected when the corporation, headed by Brother J.B. Mailers, president since May, 1919, set out for the final funds. In December, 1919, the corporation authorized a bond issue of $15,000, consisting of ten-year bonds drawing four per cent, interest, and in denominations of $10. The sale of bonds was only moderately successful among the Alumni; $7,200 worth was taken, mostly by the Active Chapter. The initiates’ notes for which had formerly been used to pay for the lot, were now put into the building fund. A loan of $36,000 was secured from a building and loan association on a first mortgage on the House, and the Chapter treasury gave $1,000. The bonds outstanding, the loan, and notes and donation totaled $54,000, and on June 28, 1919, ground was broken.” Mailers oversaw the construction of the entire building, from the ground breaking to the final completion. The House Corporation owned the building and the active chapter paid a $550 monthly rental. Gamma Mu “is looking forward to the approaching day, about nine years hence, when clear and unqualified title will be hers.”

Gamma Mu’s new home was described as having “an L-shaped structure with the longer arm - the main wing - stretching east and west and facing north. Placed well back on a raised lawn it is of

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116 The Delta of Sigma Nu, March 1920, p. 707.  
117 The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1921, p. 509.  
118 The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1921, p. 511.  
119 The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1921, p. 512.
colonial style with pillared entrance and French-windows. Indiana Bedford stone trimmings set off the red face brick and the red concrete of the terraces. The entrance opens into a hallway flanked on one side by the dining room and on the other by the living room. All woodwork and furniture is in oak and the floors are of hardwood. Six round tables, each seating eight men, serve the Chapter in the light and spacious dining room. The hangings here are French tapestry and ecru silk curtains. Over the fireplace in the dining room is the crest done in colored glass mosaic. In the same position in the living room is a bronze memorial tablet in memory of Brother Eric Pihlgard, who lost his life in France. The living room is an inviting place with its deep blue Glendale rug, its curtains and hangings like those in the dining room, and the davenports and circle of easy chairs about the fireplace. Off at one side is a handsome grand piano. Just off the living room to the south are the library and guest room, the latter equipped with toilet and lavatory, mission bed and dressing table. To the west of the living room is the sun parlor - a light, pleasant little room with full French windows on three sides. The wicker furniture here is in gray. A terrace, similar to the one extending along the north front of the House, opens off the south side of the sun parlor.\(^\text{120}\)

The description of the house continued, “To the rear of the dining room are the pantry and the kitchen, and the living quarters of our excellent cooks, ‘Soph and Mary.’ Each of these rooms is conveniently arranged and completely outfitted. In the basement are the Chapter room, trunk room, and boiler room. The Webster modulation vacuum steam heating system is used. The House is piped for a vacuum cleaning system. On the second floor are ten study rooms of varying sizes to accommodate two, three, or four men. Each room has one or two double closets, depending on its size. Linen closets and a storage room are nearby. On the third floor, in addition to five more study rooms, is the dormitory, thoroughly equipped with ventilators, and stretching the length of the north

\(^{120}\) The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1921, p. 707.
front. Both of the two upper floors have ample toilet, lavatory, and bath rooms, that on the second floor having showers, and that on the third floor a tub.”

When the alumni visited the house, “there is one part of the House that is never missed - the kitchen. There, still cooking as they have been for so many years, are Soph and Mary.”

The sleeping quarters were arranged in the dormitory system. *The Delta* published a multi-page symposium on chapter houses. About the Gamma Mu house it was reported, “In every way the House is a real Home. It compares most favorably with other houses at the university.” More work was done on the house, “For a year and a half the walls of our new House had been seasoning. During the Summer the interior was entirely transformed by decoration. The House, new as it is, is doubly new now, and it is a mighty attractive home. The dining-room is panelled to the molding in dark oak. The hallway is done in tan, with the ceiling a lighter tan. The living room, guest room, and sun parlor are in French gray with ceiling a fine shade of ivory. Ten Brothers who were here for Summer school, helped in the decorating and kept the House and lawn in good shape. Two brothers made benches for the Chapter room. The chapter ranked 12/48 academically and therefore the chapter was allowed to initiate and send representatives to the inter-fraternity council.”

The chapter again tried to keep alumni in the loop. The first issue of the *Gamma Mu Alumni Correspondent* appeared October 2, 1921, as a single-page typewritten sheet. The newsletter contained letters from the alumni. A second edition debuted in December and a third closely followed. The latter two were printed.

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121 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, May 1921, p. 584.
122 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, October 1921, p. 21.
123 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, December 1921, p. 255.
124 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, March 1922, p. 615.
On February 26, 1922, the chapter initiated nine men who had pledged in the fall. The chapter ranked 8/60 social fraternities. The university made plans for a new stadium and Pete Russell was the only student member on the stadium executive committee.

The May 1922 Delta contained a mention of Charles “Chic” Sale, a comedian who was a Broadway and silent movie star, “‘Chic’ Sale is a well-known figure around about Sigma Nu’s Chapter Houses, albeit ‘Chic’ himself is not a Sigma Nu. That is because he never went to college. But in the old days of pledging before matriculation, ‘Chic’ was a pledge of Gamma Mu’s at Illinois. As his old friend, now Inspector Ellis Hall, tells us, ‘Chic’ was brought up - scholastically - at the Sigma Nu House.” As a high schooler, Sale would visit the house and “play the piano and amuse the boys with his little stunts. Finally, he says they encouraged him so much that he began to believe he was a comedian. Once started, he has made his reputation on the vaudeville stage. But when he makes a city where Sigma Nu has a Chapter he never fails to pay the fellows a visit.”

The 1922-23 academic year saw the return of 34 men; 14 others were pledged. At the end of the previous season, Don Peden was elected captain of the football team. However, he was disqualified because of a year spent playing football at Lombard College. Instead, he assisted Coach Robert Zuppke. W.E. Hazelrigg was serving as publicity manager in the campaign to build the Margaret Carl Sanitarium and Doug Fessenden was making a name for himself in track events.

November 4, 1922 was Dad’s Day on the Illinois campus. The following morning, the chapter held its annual Memorial Day service, “Formerly, the first Sunday in November was set aside for this purpose, but recently it has been changed to the first Sunday in November immediately preceding

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125 The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1922, p. 734.
126 The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1922, p. 734.
127 The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1922, p. 763. Sale later became a member of Gamma Mu. For more information on Sale, see these Deltas: May 1929, p. 658; May 1930, p. 730; October 1930, page 13; December 1936, p. 184; March 1937, p. 374; and Fall 1986, p. 12.
128 The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1922, p. 763.
129 The Delta of Sigma Nu, December 1922, p. 229.
Armistice Day (November 11th) so that it may be more appropriately observed as a memorial to those whom we lost in the great World War as well as the other departed Brothers.”130 The service was to honor those “who have answered the call of the Supreme Grand Regent. We are reminded that they have but joined the Sublime Grand Chapter that will one day number us all. No Brother or Chapter should neglect the opportunity of paying tribute to those departed ones whose lives are built into our Fraternity. No tribute or sacrifice is too great to be made for them. The wearing of the Rose will be a reminder on this occasion of all that we, as one of America’s greatest Greek-Letter Societies, stand for and practice.”131

James S. Pollock was chosen to represent the University in the May 4, 1923 Northern Oratorical League Forensic Competition at the University of Minnesota. On June 5, 1923, he died of pneumonia. His funeral was attended by 23 Sigma Nus. The chapter sent flowers, “a beautiful replica of the Badge of Sigma Nu, made of white roses edged with red.”132 At the November 1923 Memorial Services, a plaque in memory of Pollock was unveiled. The University President, Dr. David Kinley attended the services. The memorial address was given by Harry Marsh, Beta Zeta. His was a familiar face in the chapter house. His son, Robert Marsh, was an active chapter member and the elder Marsh had assisted with the initiation ceremonies.133

At the start of the 1924-25 year, there were a dozen Sigma Nus on the faculty and they took “a great interest in our Chapter and have helped us immensely.”134 Due to the guidance of Chapter Adviser Walter F. Gast, “the Chapter finances are in excellent condition. We have been able to make many repairs and redecorate the House and still show a comfortable bank balance.”135 The chapter boasted in the March 1925 Delta that it was “especially strong this year. For many years past it has

130 The Delta of Sigma Nu, March 1923, p. 328.
131 The Delta of Sigma Nu, March 1923, p. 328.
132 The Delta of Sigma Nu, October 1923, p. 146.
133 The Delta of Sigma Nu, March 1924, p. 503; The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1926, p. 763.
134 The Delta of Sigma Nu, October 1924, p. 96.
135 The Delta of Sigma Nu, October 1924, p. 96.
been a policy of the Chapter to enter men in only the major campus activities, and this policy is again being followed. That scholarship must come first is another strong policy of the Chapter.\textsuperscript{136}

For both the previous semesters, the chapter ranked among the top ten of the 55 national social fraternities.\textsuperscript{137}

In the fall of 1925, 27 men returned and 15 more were pledged. Eminent Commander Phil Vance spent the summer preparing a history of the chapter and supervising improvements to the house. Although the chapter had just built a home, a committee was formed to investigate the real estate situation. The committee included, “Morris Hecker, a prominent Champaign business man, and Edson Millizin, our Faculty adviser. Both of these men are serving on a committee...It has been deemed advisable to look into the future, as the Chapter will be making plans for a new home within a few more years.”\textsuperscript{138}

The Illinois Homecoming tradition had caught on, not just at the university, but all over the country. The chapter was preparing for more than 60 alumni to return and the chapter report in the March 1927 \textit{Delta} reminded alumni that “All of the 67,000 seats in the Memorial Stadium are sold out weeks in advance of the Home-Coming game.”\textsuperscript{139}

A report by Newcomb W. Diehl in the October 1926 \textit{Delta} told of the troubles of a Rush Chairman, “Some sort of uniform system of interchapter rushing is becoming more and more necessary. Every fall Gamma Mu Chapter at Illinois receives dozens of letters and telegrams about prospective rushees. In many cases the information is incomplete - some details are forgotten, and it is impossible to get in touch with the rushee. If Chapters would adopt a uniform information blank with some distinctive mark or color of paper it would be a great help. The information would be noticed instantly by the rushing captain, and it would not be easily lost. Such a thing would be

\textsuperscript{136} The Delta of Sigma Nu, March 1925, p. 402.
\textsuperscript{137} The Delta of Sigma Nu, December 1925, p. 250.
\textsuperscript{138} The Delta of Sigma Nu, March 1926, p. 250.
\textsuperscript{139} The Delta of Sigma Nu, December 1925, p. 251.
simple, and would be easy to put into effect. Something of this nature is becoming more necessary every year at Illinois where the large number of students and fraternities makes rushing a difficult problem. Any aids would be welcomed.”

Millizen became the Inspector of the Ninth Division and Professor Terrence Quirke, head of the department of geology, replaced him as Chapter Adviser, “Both Brothers have been faithful in their attendance at Chapter meetings and in the solving of current problems arising about the House.” The chapter also made acquaintance with the Sigma Nu who was instrumental in the founding of the chapter, Clarence E. Woods. He had moved back to central Illinois. On December 12, 1926, Woods assisted with the initiation of Herbert R. Jacobsen and Howard W. Vance. “There he met Brother Professor George W. Pickels, Z (Central, Kentucky), for the first time in twenty years. It was a fortunate occasion. Brother Woods went back to other days, recalling that Brother Pickels rested beneath his wing years ago and that as Commander of his Chapter—Brother Clarence is a Zeta man, of course you know—he (Brother Pickels) was one of very few who have ever mastered completely the initiation ritual of the Fraternity.”

The chapter had more than 360 initiates and Gamma Mu was making plans during the spring of 1927 to celebrate its 25th anniversary. It was noted that the “Quarter-Centennial Anniversary will be held in conjunction with Home-Coming some time next fall. Letters will be addressed to all Alumni of the Chapter. Arrangements have been made for the reception of more than two hundred Brothers.”

The Delta Editor, Harry A. Rider, reported, “We attended the Home-Coming at Gamma Mu Chapter in Champaign, Ill, and made the trip with Inspector Hall and his wife….We witnessed a great game between Illinois and Michigan; attended a meeting of the board of directors of the house

140 The Delta of Sigma Nu, October 1926, p. 37.
141 The Delta of Sigma Nu, March 1927, p. 389.
142 The Delta of Sigma Nu, March 1927, p. 476.
143 The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1927, p. 566.
company and a meeting of the stockholders, followed by a banquet given by the Active Chapter to the Alumni....The Active Chapter is in the best condition we have ever seen it. The Inspector, Brother Millizen; the Chapter Adviser, Brother Quirk; and the Alumni, all share in this honor.”

Eminent Commander Walter E. Sanders won the Solomon M. Delevie prize, a prestigious design award from the Beaux Arts Institute of Design’s Department of Architecture, in New York. The competition was a nine-hour sketch problem and the topic was “A Memorial Bridge.” More than 200 problems were submitted by architecture students from schools all over the country. It was the first time the national prize had been awarded west of Pennsylvania. The Sigma Nu contingent of football “I” men - Douglas R. Mills, Frank H. Walker and Walter Jolley - played on the 1927 undefeated team which won the Big Ten title. Under the Frank Dickinson rating system, the Illini were awarded the Rissman trophy, emblematic of the national championship.

Sigma Nu’s General Secretary, Vernon M. Williams, discussed the chapter in the December 1928 Delta, “The present chapter house was built at the beginning of a period of fraternity house building competition. If we may judge from the appearances of the newer houses on this campus we would say that this competition has gone too far. Building a house so large that it requires a chapter membership of forty-five to sixty-five is not conducive to the development of those warm friendships on which our fraternity organizations depend. Houses more simple in design, durably built, which can be operated with a chapter from twenty-five to thirty-five will probably in the long run house groups whose organization is more stable and whose membership is of a more uniform high quality. It is to be hoped that Gamma Mu will not be stampeded into entering a new building

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144 The Delta of Sigma Nu, December 1927, p. 225.
145 The Delta of Sigma Nu, March 1928, p. 521.
146 The Delta of Sigma Nu, March 1928, p. 521. University of Illinois economics professor Frank G. Dickinson created a mathematical point formula to award national championships in football. The Rissman trophy was awarded from 1926-40. Dickinson also predated rankings for 1924-25.
contest. Her home is substantial. The improvements made on the first floor are fine. The new 
equipment makes the living room a most enjoyable place to visit.”

Sigma Nu alumni were also informed through the *Delta* that Chapter Adviser, Dr. Terrence T. 
Quirke, an Epsilon Kappa alumnus, “perfected last March a projection machine for showing 
stereopticon views in broad daylight….With the new projection apparatus, the lecturer can operate 
the slides himself. This permits the simultaneous use of stereopticon views, blackboard 
demonstrations, and lectures. The machine, so simple that a child could operate it, is now being used 
in the geology department. Two other departments will adopt its use as soon as more projectors are 
built.”

It was noted that William Pierce was elected president of the Interfraternity Council 
overseeing the 60 national fraternities on the Illinois campus, “To serve as the head of such an 
organization requires a thorough knowledge of the problems that face fraternities and the ability to 
judge wisely and diplomatically in the adoption of Greek letter policies.” Pierce also served as 
Gamma Mu’s Lieutenant Commander. He spent part of the Christmas vacation in New York City 
attending the National Inter-Fraternity Council meeting. He was made president of its 
undergraduate body.

The spring 1929 basketball season was an exciting one, too. Douglas R. Mills, the chapter’s 
Eminent Commander, was placed at one of the guard positions on Brick Young’s first all-
conference basketball selection. He was chosen as captain of the 1930 team. He also played on the 
Illini football team.

147 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, December 1928, p. 198. In 1928, the North-American Interfraternity Council was then known 
as the National Inter-Fraternity Council.
149 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, December 1928, p. 247.
150 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, May 1929, p. 624. In 1928, the North-American Interfraternity Council was then known as the 
National Inter-Fraternity Council.
151 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, May 1929, p. 580.
In February 1929, 13 pledges were initiated including George W. Pickles, Jr., son of George W. Pickles, Sr., a Gamma Iota who was an Illinois professor. The elder Pickles participated in the initiation of his son.\textsuperscript{152}

On September 1, 1929 the chapter house was sold to Phi Delta Phi, a legal fraternity. Gamma Mu was occupying rented quarters in the Granada Club.\textsuperscript{153} General Secretary Williams, visited the chapter and said, “After twenty-four hours at the club I was glad to see that even under such a temporary arrangement the chapter had held together and worked well with a common spirit toward the same goal. Inspector Millizen and Chapter Adviser Quirke are in close touch with the chapter and have the well deserved confidence of the men with whom they are working.”\textsuperscript{154}

The fall 1929 week-long rushing season was conducted under “the most adverse conditions possible. The fraternity is living in an apartment house while the new home is under construction and, consequently, we were forced to pledge our new members without the aid of a regular home.”\textsuperscript{155} The chapter formed a rushing committee (Eminent Commander, the Rushing Chairman, two seniors, one junior, and one sophomore) to vote on the prospective pledges and to supervise all rushing matters. Eleven men were pledged.\textsuperscript{156} Only seven were initiated.\textsuperscript{157}

Five Gamma Mus - Frank Walker, Douglas “Gaga” Mills, Clark Root, Stanley Brodman, and Walter Jolley - were members of Coach Zuppke’s football team. Mills played halfback and quarterback and was named to the honorable mention list of Ekersall’s 1928 All-American team. Walker, a halfback, was “chosen by Jimmy Phelan on the team that represented the Middle West

\textsuperscript{152} The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1929, p. 624.
\textsuperscript{153} The Delta of Sigma Nu, October 1930, p. 124; December 1930, p. 269; January 1930, p. 201.
\textsuperscript{154} The Delta of Sigma Nu, December 1930, p. 269.
\textsuperscript{155} The Delta of Sigma Nu, December 1929, p. 333.
\textsuperscript{156} The Delta of Sigma Nu, December 1929, p. 332.
\textsuperscript{157} The Delta of Sigma Nu, October 1930, p. 124.
against the best of the South in the New Year’s day game at Galveston, Texas.”

Eminent Commander Paul Strohm served as the team’s manager.

The annual spring Formal was held at the old house, through the kindness of the Phi Delta Phi men. McKinney’s Cotton Pickers furnished the music. Sixty couples attended.

When the 1930-31 academic year opened, the chapter was still in rented quarters. A new house was being built at 1009 West Pennsylvania Avenue. There is evidence in the University of Illinois Archives that the home was to have an art deco feel. The October 1930 Gamma Mu News includes a rendering of the new home that is clearly not the design of the house. It was noted, “Details of the house indicate that it will, aside from representing the most radical departure from conventional fraternity house design at Illinois, for some time at least, be the show piece of the campus. This only from the amount of interest which has been aroused by the publication of floor and interior plans.” The University may have persuaded the Gamma Mu House Corporation to go with a more traditional design. The house which was built was of the same modern English architecture as the nearby home that was being built for the President of the University, Harry W. Chase, a Dartmouth College Sigma Nu. Chase laid the cornerstone when the building project began in March 1930.

Almond. W. (A.W.) Stoolman was the general contractor.

The new home was built on the south of campus adjacent to the home of the Alpha Tau Omega chapter whose national organization also was founded at Virginia Military Institute. It was hoped that the chapter could move in by second semester. The alumni who returned for the

158 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, March 1930, p. 511.
159 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, November, 1930, p. 269.
160 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, October 1930, p. 124.
161 *Gamma Mu News*, October 1930, p. 3., courtesy of the University of Illinois Archives.
162 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, October 1931, p. 90.
Homecoming game against Northwestern did not have a chapter house to return to, but there were four Gamma Mus on the team to watch on the football field.\textsuperscript{163}

The 10 men who graduated in 1931 were prominent on campus. Eminent Commander Paul H. Strohm was a member of three honorary class societies - Skull and Crescent (sophomore men), Sachem (junior men), and Ma-Wan-Da, (senior men).\textsuperscript{164} However, the spring term was not a good one academically. The chapter ranked 27/72, but that was an improvement over the fall 1930 semester when it was 39/72.\textsuperscript{165}

The chapter started the 1931-32 year in its new red brick modified Georgian style home built on a 75’ x 125’ lot. It was trimmed with Indiana limestone and it had a green slate roof. The reinforced concrete floors and brick walls construction made “the house absolutely fireproof.” Its cost was about $90,000 and “the house is almost perfect in every detail for a fraternity home.”\textsuperscript{166}

The house slept 35 men in two large dormitories, “Each man has his own individual locker, which is 4 x 3 feet, and ample shelving. In each room there is an indentation in the wall and here the chest of drawers is built in, giving each man six dresser and four desk drawers. Above each of the dressers is an inverted opaque light for dressing. The floors of the rooms are cement and the halls are a composition made of rubber and asbestos. There are sixteen of these study rooms of which three are made for three men and the others for two each. The bathrooms are made in three parts on both the second and third floors. There are two dormitories on the third floor, a small dorm which is being heated and a large dorm unheated. The dining room, chapter room and kitchen are on the first floor, which might be more properly called an English basement. The dining room and chapter room are large and can be opened into one, making one large room for dances and banquets. In order to eliminate noise in the dining room the kitchen is constructed with the kitchen

\textsuperscript{163} The Delta of Sigma Nu, December 1930, p. 307.
\textsuperscript{164} The Delta of Sigma Nu, March 1931, p. 491.
\textsuperscript{165} The Delta of Sigma Nu, October 1931, p. 64.
\textsuperscript{166} The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1932, p. 365.
proper divided from the dining room by a serving room. A portable ping pong table in the chapter room makes it serve a double purpose.  

In entering the front door, the visitor saw a “vestibule which is paneled in walnut and has a red tile floor. To the left there is the card room which is finished in ivory and which has space above the dining room. This room is 16 x 32 feet and is furnished in antique oak and red and green leather chairs and lounges. There is a solid green carpet with its soft underpads to contrast with the beech-nut paneling and the gold and red draperies. To the left of the lounge is a large fireplace which is of blue tile, and just beside this is the entrance to the guest room. The guest room is 18 x 16 feet and has a private shower and bath. The bathroom is in black and white tile. There are two closets and twin beds in this room. The draperies are green and bed spreads to match. The Mothers’ club, to which the chapter is indebted for the furnishings, was under the leadership of Mrs. Sanderson, Mrs. Berndt and Mrs. Turck, and they raised money through a series of bridge parties.

To the “right of the lounge and connected by a large opening is the music room or living room. This is furnished in a more formal manner than the lounge and the dominating color is green. The walls are canvassed in green and the all over carpeting is green as in the lounge. The flooring is of individual oak blocks. Upholstered furniture is in this room and the dark mahogany grand piano. Directly south of the music room is the library. This room is furnished in a dark green leather and a red carpet which contrasts with the walnut paneling. The chapter now boasts of one of the largest selections of trophies and cups on the campus, and with many fine new books this room is very complete.

The chapter house was dedicated on Homecoming, October 24, 1931. Malcolm C. Sewell, General Secretary, gave this account, “President of the University, Harry W. Chase, AB

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167 The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1932, p. 365.
168 The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1932, p. 367.
169 The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1932, p. 367.
(Dartmouth), gave a pleasing talk to the group. Alumni members who had largely contributed of their time and effort in making the house possible were called upon for speeches. The speakers included Ellis Hall, Douglas N. Stockham, Morris L. Hecker and Herbert R. Hedman. Clarence E. Woods, Past Grand Recorder, closed the banquet program with a stirring talk upon the meaning of Sigma Nu and in tribute to the sentiment expressed by Herbert R. Hedman in his statement of his own resolution years ago to return to his college and his Frat once a year.”\textsuperscript{170}

A report of the chapter’s activities from the \textit{Convention Proceedings} gave this picture of the chapter, “Gamma Mu has had two trying years, due to the necessity of living in rented dormitory quarters. The chapter moves this fall into their new home. The house when completed will represent an investment of $85,000. The construction is 100 per cent fireproof; the architecture, Georgian; the capacity is forty men. It will rank among the finest in our fraternity. The chapter has had excellent leadership, and despite the many problems which arise from a rather un-united existence, has shown marked improvement in its scholastic standing. From thirty-ninth place among sixty-five national social fraternities in the first semester of 1929-30, the chapter raised its standing to ninth place during the first semester of 1930-31. They received the university scholarship cup for obtaining the greatest advance in scholarship last year. The chapter continues to have a large number of activity men and this year had members elected to Alpha Delta Sigma, Alpha Kappa Psi and Tau Beta Pi, honorary fraternities.”\textsuperscript{171}

The spring semester’s Interscholastic Weekend typically brought a large number of high school guests to campus and it was a prime opportunity to meet some potential freshmen in preparation for rush the following fall. The formal spring dance took place on April 28. Wallace R. Hornby, social chairman, “made all necessary arrangements and, although expenses were limited more than ever, he

\textsuperscript{170} \textit{The Delta of Sigma Nu}, December 1931, p. 267.
\textsuperscript{171} \textit{The Delta of Sigma Nu}, November, 1931, p. 259A.
gave the chapter as enjoyable a dance as any we have had in the past.” An informal dance was held the next evening, “for the first time since the chapter has taken over its new home, a dance was held on its main floor. Dinner was served in the basement where dances formerly were held. The change proved very successful, for the hardwood floor of the lounge, green room, card room, and library was more fitting to the occasion than the composition floor of the basement.”

Homecoming 1933 featured a 21-0 Illini victory over Wisconsin. About 35 alumni returned, “Chapter house decorations, which consisted of a miniature stadium and football field set up in the front yard, were said by several alumni to be better than any Sigma Nu has had since the chapter moved from 303 John Street.” Among the visitors was Clarence E. Woods, who was Grand Recorder when Gamma Mu was founded, and Charles S. O'Connell, a Gamma Mu charter member. O'Connell was one of the speakers at the annual Homecoming banquet. He spoke about the chapter’s early history.

After two years as Chapter Adviser, Dr. H. Fraser Johnstone became Inspector of the Ninth Division. Dr. Ludwig F. Audrieth took on the Chapter Adviser duties.

Ten men graduated in 1933 and this seemed to be the reason each member was to submit the names of at least two potential rushees before school started. In the chapter’s Delta report, the chapter publically thanked, “our hard working Mothers’ Club, which has never failed to help us. They have provided us with many things for our chapter house which we felt we could not afford, and we want them to know that we thoroughly appreciate everything they have done for us.”

172 The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1933, p. 464.
173 The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1933, p. 464.
174 The Delta of Sigma Nu, December 1933, p. 270.
175 The Delta of Sigma Nu, December 1933, p. 271.
176 The Delta of Sigma Nu, December 1933, p. 433. Dr. Johnstone served the Epsilon Xi chapter at the University of Mississippi as its first adviser when the chapter was installed in 1927.
177 The Delta of Sigma Nu, October 1934, p. 136.
John T. Beynon was co-captain of the 1934 Illini football team which took second place in the Big Ten. Beynon also played basketball and earned six varsity letters. Alumnus Douglas R. Mills, was hired as a coach. John “Dutch” Van Tuin was the water polo captain. In addition to being named to the All-American water polo team, he had just become a father. Three Miller brothers - Oliver C. Jr., Donald T., and Bob - were living in the house.\footnote{The Delta of Sigma Nu, March 1935, p. 499.}

During the fall of 1935, Equality party ticket candidate Bill McKinstry was elected president of the senior class for the first semester. Gamma Mu R. Lawrence Ball, Jr., filed the post for the previous fall. The pledge dance took place on Saturday, October 12. Red Deames and his orchestra supplied the music.\footnote{The Delta of Sigma Nu, December 1935, p. 385.}

Chapter Adviser Audrieth resigned the position during the spring of 1936 and was replaced by Terrence Quirke.\footnote{The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1936, p. 689.} Sigma Nu had produced a motion picture, “The Trail of the White Star,” to be used at rush parties and other chapter events. There were two copies of the film available for borrowing and it was recommended to be shown during rush parties and alumni events. The film was shown at the Gamma Mu house.\footnote{The Delta of Sigma Nu, December 1936, p. 232.}

Intramural sports were a constant part of chapter life in the 1930s. In 1935-36, the chapter won the intramural trophy. As the competition was coming to a close, the chapter was ahead by about 70 points. The chapter won eight university and four division intramural championships and received the five-foot University intramural championship cup. The University individual point cup was won by Bob Crocombe, who was closely followed by his twin brother. Bill, and three other Sigma Nus.\footnote{The Delta of Sigma Nu, October 1936, p. 105.} Former letterman Beynon, who was enrolled in the University of Illinois Law School was serving as an assistant football and basketball coach. Mills was also on the University staff as

\footnote{The Delta of Sigma Nu, March 1935, p. 499.}
\footnote{The Delta of Sigma Nu, December 1935, p. 385.}
\footnote{The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1936, p. 689.}
\footnote{The Delta of Sigma Nu, December 1936, p. 232.}
\footnote{The Delta of Sigma Nu, October 1936, p. 105.}
freshman football coach and assistant basketball coach. A little while later, at age 28, he would be appointed the head basketball coach and lead his team to three Big Ten championships. After coaching, he would spend more than two decades as the Illinois’ Athletic Director, retiring in 1966.

Morris L. Green, captain of the fencing team, won the saber championship of the Illinois division of the Fencers League of America. The chapter gave a dance for rushing purposes, “inviting the local high school boys recently. The affair met with the approval and praise of everyone as it aided the chapter in securing the best rushing dates with the Champaign-Urbana boys.”

During the fall 1937 semester, there were 60 members in the chapter, 28 were pledges; 51 pledges and actives lived in the house and those living in paid $54.50 per month for fraternity fee plus room and board.

Dexter R. Barrett, a member of the inter-unit rifle team who served on the Military Council, received his commission as Lieutenant Colonel in the R.O.T.C. pledge James R. Osborne was on the freshman rifle squad and pledges Edwin C. Carney and Jack Larimer were members of the Pershing Rifles unit. The Homecoming decorations celebrated the 25th anniversary of Robert C. Zuppke as football coach.

In response to the need to increase the chapter’s GPA, in the fall of 1937, a graduate student was engaged as a scholastic counselor. The graduate student was William A. Ferguson, an alumnus of the Beta Gamma Chapter at Missouri Valley College. Ferguson was to become a fixture of Gamma Mu life, but his first task was to help raise the chapter’s GPA. Ferguson wrote an article for the March 1939 Delta titled, “Is Your Chapter Considering a Resident Counselor?” He explained the chapter’s situation, “The year 1936-37 found Gamma Mu in a bad way scholastically. The

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183 The Delta of Sigma Nu, December 1936, p. 228.
184 The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1937, p. 587.
185 The Delta of Sigma Nu, March 1938, p. 435.
186 The Delta of Sigma Nu, December 1937, p. 308.
187 The Delta of Sigma Nu, December 1937, p. 308.
188 The Delta of Sigma Nu, March 1938, p. 426.
chapter hit a new low, forty-fifth among fifty-seven fraternities, and as a result, stood in danger of losing its social privileges because of low scholarship. In an effort to get back on its feet, Gamma Mu, through the advice of the national offices, decided to try a resident counselor as a possible solution for the following year, 1937-38. By the time the plan was put into place the first semester was more than half over.” He outlined the plan, “we conduct a study hall for freshmen….the freshmen undergo a period of supervised study from 7:30 to 10:30 each school night, interrupted only by a ten-minute rest period at the halfway mark….Conditions in study hall are more conducive to study than in individual rooms, since conversation with roommates is inevitable. The scene of action is the dining room. It is a part of daily housework for a designated pledge to prepare the dining room for study each night, as well as put it in order after 10:30….not more than four study at a table. Naturally the counsellor has a table alone. For lighting, it is the duty of one at each table to bring his study lamp each night.” The scholastic chairman worked in cooperation with the resident counselor, “He is custodian of the files, keeping all exams, themes, etc., catalogued in order. A good file system is an asset, but a great deal of work is required to keep it in order.” Ferguson mentioned that the chapter by-laws had some added language. He stated, “I do not feel, however, that scholarship can be legislated. It must come as a result of the determined effort of the entire chapter. The freshman is placed in a serious atmosphere at the outset. He forms the study habits he will carry on for four years, so it is imperative that these be good ones.”

In December 1937, the Mothers’ Club gave the chapter a radio-victrola, “The radio proved its worth when the chapter used it for our radiodance which was held soon after the second semester opened.” The chapter held its formal initiation on Sunday, February 13. Inspector H. Fraser Johnstone, Adviser Quirke, and “other prominent members of the faculty were in attendance. Prior

189 The Delta of Sigma Nu, March 1939, p. 222.
190 The Delta of Sigma Nu, March 1938, p. 453.
to the formal initiation, the chapter held a banquet in honor of the new initiates. Complete silence was observed throughout the day, and the entire initiation proved very impressive.”

Eminent Commander Donald G. Davis “revised the bylaws of the chapter and has instigated a very complete examination file system which was very valuable at the close of last semester. He also had published a complete directory of every man that has been initiated into this chapter. The directory will be distributed to each alumnus and to every active member.”

Basketball team members Carter L. Cooley and pledge Charles W. Phillips went to New York with the team and they played in Madison Square Garden. William Lenich was awarded his “I” in football and was initiated into the Tribe of Illini in recognition of his football ability.

The chapter was proud of its members who were chosen for Sachem, a junior honorary, and Ma-Wan-Da, a senior honorary. Two plaques honoring the members who were tapped for these societies were acquired. They were to be hung in the chapter room.

At the end of the 1937-38 year, the chapter’s GPA put it in the top 10 among the fraternities. Credit for the assisting in the effort was given to Ferguson, the resident scholastic adviser. Seven lettermen were Gamma Mu men. During the spring 1939 semester, the chapter entertained their moms for Mother’s Day. The following weekend, was “the date of the Illinois high school interscholastics. We will entertain numerous high school seniors and do some effective rushing.” The spring formal was set for May 12-14, and plans were to “dance and dine for three days, a sweater dance and picnic, a formal, with decorations and favors will greet the dates.”

191 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, March 1938, p. 453.
192 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, March 1938, p. 453.
193 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, March 1938, p. 454.
194 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, May 1938, p. 590.
195 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, October 1938, p. 43.
196 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, May 1939, p. 373.
197 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, May 1939, p. 373.
To keep track of their alumni, the chapter hired the Stewart Howe Alumni Service and Through the company, “500 Gamma Mu alumni and 500 alumni of other chapters throughout the state are contacted and urged to send in names of boys who they believe have the makings of Sigma Nus.”

In the December 1939 Delta, Edward H. Holt, Gamma Mu chapter’s Lieutenant Commander and Pledgemaster, wrote an article about the chapter’s new member program. Holt gave his opinion, “Good fraternity men come from well trained pledge classes, and few poorly developed pledges become valuable members of their chapters when initiated. Although the calibre of the material is the prime factor, the pledge training will determine whether or not the neophyte will develop into a well rounded fraternity brother…. However, the pledge should be trained to respect the fraternity and its upperclassmen through sane and sensible rules. A chapter must guard against childish, silly or personally insulting requirements of any nature.”

The chapter organized the “pledge class along lines similar to those of the chapter. Officers are elected after the members of the new class have gotten to know each other well. The pledge meetings are held at the same time that chapter meetings take place. These meetings are carried on in a business-like manner.”

At the end of the fall 1939 rushing period, 23 men were pledged. Commander Herbert Baker and Lieutenant Commander Jim Hemphill were serving on an Interfraternity Council committee which was studying the living conditions in fraternity houses. George Ahlf was on the “pajama race” committee, “an established University tradition.” The chapter had three exchange dinners with sororities. William Lenich, the center on the football team, was unanimously elected by his teammates as the most valuable team member. He received a silver football from the Chicago Daily
and he was invited to play on the North team in the North-South (Blue-Gray) game at Montgomery, Alabama.\(^{202}\)

A radiodance was planned for March 1, 1940 and “it should be a great success, as this type of dance usually is.”\(^{203}\) Under the auspices of resident counselor Ferguson, the pledge class grades were improving. On Sunday, March 17, 1940, John T. McFall was initiated. He had been hospitalized for a month and he was unable to be initiated with the rest of his class.\(^{204}\) Senior John Philip Sivert was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

During the Fall 1940 semester, Eminent Commander James Hemphill was called home because his father became ill; Lieutenant Commander Richard Barlow took over the office.\(^{205}\) Two weeks before Christmas vacation, Gamma Mu held its winter informal dance. It “was heavily endorsed as the most popular informal held on this campus in the past decade.”\(^{206}\) Through the efforts of Frank Belohlavek the entire first floor became a rustic scene for a barn dance. The initiation of three pledges during the 1941 spring semester brought the year’s pledge total to 17. Belohlavek was elected Eminent Commander, but by the fall semester, he was in the Air Corps and unable to return to school.\(^{207}\)

When the United States entered World War II in December 1941, college men answered the call to duty. In an article the March 1942 \textit{Delta}, Beta Chi Ernst Giesecke, an Associate Professor in German and Counselor in the Personnel Bureau at the University of Illinois, cautioned students to “Stay in school until there is need for you elsewhere, and hit the books like you’ve never even thought of hitting them.”\(^{208}\)

\(^{202}\) The Delta of Sigma Nu, March 1940, p. 222.
\(^{203}\) The Delta of Sigma Nu, March 1940, p. 222.
\(^{204}\) The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1940, p. 295.
\(^{205}\) The Delta of Sigma Nu, December 1940, p. 117.
\(^{206}\) The Delta of Sigma Nu, March 1941, p. 209.
\(^{207}\) The Delta of Sigma Nu, December 1941, p. 102.
\(^{208}\) The Delta of Sigma Nu, March 1942, p. 132.
Ken Menke, a sophomore, was on the basketball team which won the Big Ten championship. Amo Bessone, “a junior and letter-winner in hockey and baseball last year, was voted most valuable on the hockey team, Big Ten champs, and elected captain for next year. The Army is hot on his heels now, but we hope he can continue as a great athlete.” With the looming loss of men to the armed forces, the chapter hoped “to pledge a few more men before the end of the semester, and even now are making plans for the coming rushing season in hopes of refilling the house during the war crisis. Since the university will have a semester summer session, the house will be kept open the year round.”

The chapter received news over the summer of 1943 that U.S. Navy Lieutenant (j.g.) Ralph Waldo Hathaway, Jr., a 1938 initiate, was killed on June 13, 1943, in a plane crash at Cherry Point, North Carolina. He played football and was a member of the Tribe of Illini. Former Illini athlete Douglas Fessenden, who had been serving as Athletic Director at the University of Montana, was a Captain in the Air Force. He was on leave of absence from his job “for the duration.”

The chapter’s situation was discussed in the 1943 Convention Proceedings, “Gamma Mu is in somewhat of an unfortunate position at this writing. Apparently the chapter house cannot be used by the Army because of its location - this situation may clear up, we hope. The Chapter ended the year in good financial condition. While they have some outstanding debits they have more than enough credits to offset these. The first mortgage can possibly be liquidated entirely if the house corporation so wishes, leaving only the second mortgage outstanding. This appears fine. The house is closed and a caretaker is being paid $12 a week to keep the house in order and in good condition. There is very little chance of occupancy of the house before October, 1943, and quite likely not then. Consideration has been given to the storing of furniture of other fraternities in the house.

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209 The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1942, p. 251.
210 The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1942, p. 251.
211 The Delta of Sigma Nu, October 1943, p. 51.
212 The Delta of Sigma Nu, December 1942, p 122.
thereby paying all overhead and upkeep for the duration. This to be determined.”

Apparentnly, from a report of the 1946 Convention Proceedings, another situation happened. For the 1943-44 year, “Gamma Mu continued operation in the house, sharing it with members of other fraternities which were houseless. The arrangement was not satisfactory.”

The Illinois campus was emptying of men as was the Gamma Mu chapter. The May 1944 Delta contained a letter from Gamma Mu alumnus, Donald G. Davis, an Ensign in the U.S. Navy. It was titled “Are You There?” He wrote, “I received the latest (?) issue of The DELTA and enjoyed every page of it, although I looked in vain for some Gamma Mu news. What’s the matter, the war shouldn’t stop that Illinois news from coming through? I am enjoying the Navy fine.” The Delta Editor, Harry A. Rider, also took the chapter to task, “Gamma Mu Chapter has always enjoyed a reputation second to none in the Fraternity, but facts to justify it are missing. Her Chapter letter record for the past seven issues, is exactly 0%. In short, the Editor has never had a news report of Sigma Nu activities, if any, at the University of Illinois since he took charge of The DELTA. Therefore, her publicity department is hereby courtmartialed and sentenced to send in a long letter for the next DELTA. - The Editor.”

The Alma Mater statue created by alumnus Lorado Taft appeared on the cover of the October 1944 Delta. The statue “symbolizes the spirit of America’s colleges in welcoming young men to a life of learning and to a deepening of the channels of thought while the current of youth runs strong in their veins.”

The December 1944 Delta finally had an entry from Gamma Mu. Eminent Commander Herschell Gene Emery wrote, “The Chapter is planning to make 1944-‘45 a real Sigma Nu year at

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213 The Delta of Sigma Nu, November 1943, p. 112.
214 The Delta of Sigma Nu, November 1946, p. 123.
215 The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1944, p. 332.
216 The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1944, p. 332.
217 The Delta of Sigma Nu, October 1944, p. 19.
Illinois, regardless of the fact that we are not now living in the house. We have 17 members, two men who plan to affiliate, and one pledge....We have made tentative plans to hold at least two dances as well as various other social affairs during the college year.”

During the 1944-45 year, “the house was leased for the use of women students; during that year, the few members roomed together in a rooming house and continued operation as a chapter.” Another letter in the May 1945 Delta also reported on what was happening with the chapter. It was titled “Illinois Still Tops” and it read, “The fellows at Illinois have had plenty of the old tough breaks this year just like all the other Chapters are experiencing, but this is not going to be an apology or an excuse. This is the story of how the Sigma Nus have still got the old fight that keeps them at the top. The Chapter at Illinois started the year with a dozen men, but by the end of the first semester of college there was only one-half of the members left. A couple of our fellows are now in the Navy, one is in the Army, and one is now driving an ambulance in Burma. Our men on campus are not living at the chapter house because of our limited numbers, but plans are being formed to correct this situation. Howard K. (‘Moose’) Judson was again a star of the fighting Illini basketball team. Jack Burmaster, a recent pledge, was the second of a trio of regulars as well as being one of the outstanding Freshmen in the Midwest this year. Robert E. Morton was the third of the varsity trio. Judson and Burmaster were both named on the Big Nine all-star teams. Commander H. Gene Emery, who was the acting captain and number one man on the varsity golf squad last year, is practicing and getting ready for some good stiff competition. Another Pledge L. A. Bingaman played varsity football last fall and is out this spring getting ready for an All-America rating next season. Judson is warming up his baseball arm now that basketball is finished for the year. ‘Moose’ caused plenty of trouble for the batters last spring as a starting pitcher in the conference. He’s back better than ever this year, and is ready to belt a few runs across himself. It’s not hard to see that the Sigma

218 The Delta of Sigma Nu, December 1944, p. 96.
219 The Delta of Sigma Nu, November 1946, p. 123.
Nus are holding a top position in the U. of I’s athletics. For so few men this has been a fairly successful social year also. With only twelve members starting the year, we nevertheless found that the White Star has been hung four times. This year has seen some swell serenades and several swell stag Sigma Nu gatherings. The Chapter again boasts a fine pledge class of eight fellows: Les Bingaman, Jack Burmaster, Dale Lipe, Alex Procopis, Nick Puccetti, Bert Bertrando, Jerry Went, Wayne Wenig. All but two of these men will be back next fall to see that the house is open and that Gamma Mu is still going. There are nine actives on campus now, two of whom are V-12’s. The V-12’s are C. Stanley Raney and Carl J. Ricker. The other men are Commander Gene Emery, Lieutenant Commander Fred C. Good, Treasurer William A. Lyman, Jr., Recorder Joseph Oberfranc, Chaplain R. Rinaldo Agostine, Bob Morton, and Howie Judson. Commander Emery will graduate this spring and be on his way to Harvard Law School, but the other fellows will be back next fall and are making every possible move to be sure that the house is again open and operating at full strength. Inspector Frank Thorne on a recent visit assured the men he was behind them all the way and would help all he could. Bob Estergard, an alumnus on campus, and vice-president of the house corporation, is exerting every effort to insure that the chapter house will be open for the next term. Faculty Adviser Terrence Quirke is behind the fellows too, so it surely seems that Gamma Mu Chapter of Sigma Nu has a very bright future ahead of it. This is a swell chance to have a grand chapter waiting for the returning men of Sigma Nu.²²² A picture was included in the issue, too.

Alumnus Frank Thorne was serving as vice-president of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America, Inc. (SPEBSQSA). He directed one of the largest barbershop quartet choruses in America in the annual Chicago Music Festival, on August

²²² The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1945, p. 207.
He put together a tool for Sigma Nus to use in fostering singing within chapters and alumni groups. It was titled “Song Pamphlet for Harmony Singing” and it contained “barbershop harmony chorus arrangements of 19 Sigma Nu Songs including, ‘The Fraternity Man’ - which has been sung in all Chapters from time immemorial - and our official Fraternity song, ‘The White Star of Sigma Nu,’ through the long-time favorites like ‘Sigma Nu Girl,’ ‘The Banjo Song,’ and ‘Adam and the Madame’ to the selections of the latest contest, in 1942 - ‘A Rose and a Star,’ ‘Laudate Epsilon Tau Tau Sigma Nu,’ and ‘Pan-Hellenic History.’ Here are two songs familiar in many Chapters that might well be taken up in all Chapters - so familiar that their very authors are unknown - ‘My Sigma Nu,’ and ‘Sunny Southern Sweetheart.’ Then there is, too, Thome’s own song, ‘Our Sigma Nu.’”

Alumnus Quincy Wright, who transferred to Gamma Mu from the Lombard College chapter, was a press counselor at the World Security Conference in San Francisco. He was a technical adviser in international law to the U.S. representative on the Nuremberg military tribunal trying German war criminals and he was professor of international law at the University of Chicago.

When the school year began in 1945, the house opened in tip-top shape. Chapter members came back a week early to work on it. The men painted walls and took care of the furniture, “The work requiring more practiced hands was, of course, taken care of by professionals.” The men’s fraternities on campus “had the strange problem during rushing of not knowing some of our brothers, as well as the rushees, for we have men back from as far as the class of ’42.”

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221 The Delta of Sigma Nu, October 1945, p. 89.
222 The Delta of Sigma Nu, March 1946, p. 142. A photo in the March 1948 Delta included Sigma Nus who attended the June 13, 1947 semi-finals of the international contest. In it were: Hatch Graham, secretary of the Hollywood chapter and a member of the international publicity committee; Maurice E. “Molly” Reagan, an international director and chairman of the judges at the international contests; and Frank H. Thome, international president and Sigma Nu’s Inspector of Division 9.
223 The Delta of Sigma Nu, March 1946, p. 115.
224 The Delta of Sigma Nu, December 1946, p. 19.
225 The Delta of Sigma Nu, December 1946, p. 19.
pledged 13 men. Several brothers including Lester A. Bingaman and Louis Agase were on the Illini team which won the 1947 Rose Bowl game.\textsuperscript{226}

In addition to Hathaway, the chapter had several other members killed in action. They were: William Everett Geist; Richard James Good; James Warren Leech (an affiliate from Knox College, formerly the Lombard College chapter\textsuperscript{227}); Armen Robert Manougian; and Ralph Reynolds Seger. Robert Clarence Miller was listed as a prisoner of war.\textsuperscript{228}

During the summer of 1947, the chapter house had new terrazzo floors installed and the lighting and landscaping were improved. A set of drapes for the “Green Room” and a few magazine subscriptions were gifts of the Mothers’ Club.\textsuperscript{229}

On August 19, 1947, Dr. Quirke, the chapter Adviser, died suddenly at the age of 61. He was born in England, came to the United States in 1904, and earned his Ph.D. in 1915. He taught geology at Illinois beginning in 1919 and he took a keen interest in the chapter. He was initiated on June 9, 1924 as an alumnus at the University of North Dakota where he earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees.\textsuperscript{230}

After Quirke’s death, William A. Ferguson, who years before had served as Scholastic Resident Counselor when the chapter was having academic troubles, became the Chapter Adviser. Louis Agase was chosen to play in the 1948 East-West game at San Francisco on New Year’s Day. The East team took the honors, 40-9. Varsity letterman Robert W. “Bob” Scanlan was again on the fencing team. The theme of the January 17, 1948 winter formal was “Winter Haven.” It took place in the chapter house. As happened on more than one occasion, the chapter house was the site of a

\textsuperscript{226} The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1948, p. 237.
\textsuperscript{227} When Lombard College closed in 1930, the charter was transferred to Knox College, also located in Galesburg, Illinois.
\textsuperscript{228} The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1947, p. 325.
\textsuperscript{229} The Delta of Sigma Nu, March 1948, p. 173.
\textsuperscript{230} The Delta of Sigma Nu, December 1947, p. 136.
wedding ceremony and/or reception. On September 6, 1947, the groom was William David Parsons and the bride was Jean Alford. Parsons was a collegiate member of the chapter.\textsuperscript{231}

Graduating in the spring of 1948 were several of the chapter’s lettermen including 1948 basketball captain John H. Burmaster.\textsuperscript{232} Football tackle Lester A. Bingaman was headed to a career in the professional leagues.\textsuperscript{233} Agase, another tackle, set his sights on coaching.\textsuperscript{234} Mildred Bender became the chapter’s cook and dietician, after working at the University of Illinois for more than 20 years.\textsuperscript{235}

The 1948 \textit{Convention Proceedings} gave a glimpse into chapter life, “Since the beginning of the college year, the Chapter has shown marked improvement. Dr. William A. Ferguson, newly appointed Chapter Adviser and Inspector Frank H. Thorne, have exerted considerable influence. Slowly the basic idea of Chapter discipline and individual responsibility is seeping through the membership. Rushing plans aim toward more selectivity and serving Alma Mater in other ways than taking care of athletes.”\textsuperscript{236}

In the fall of 1948, 23 men were pledged, bringing the chapter total to 68. The chapter had a dog. It may not have been the chapter’s first dog, but it was the first one mentioned in a \textit{Delta} chapter report. Rob, a very large Irish Setter, was acquired in May 1948 from a family who “could no longer keep him. At first Rob was kept busy going to class himself where he learned to heel and sit. Now he just lopes to classes with Sigma Nus and will return with no other group for he knows each

\textsuperscript{231} The \textit{Delta of Sigma Nu}, March 1948, p. 175.
\textsuperscript{232} After Burmaster played professional basketball, he began coaching high school basketball. From 1952-75 he was head coach at Evanston Township High School in Evanston, Illinois. Among his 362-145 record is the win in 1968 Illinois state high school championship. He also served as the school’s athletic director from 1975-85. At the 100th anniversary of the Illinois High School Association tournament in 2006, he was voted as one of the 100 Legends of the Illinois High School Association tournament.
\textsuperscript{233} Bingaman played offensive lineman for seven seasons with the Detroit Lions. He played in the 1951 and 1953 Pro Bowls. He later went into coaching.
\textsuperscript{234} Agase coached at Illinois, Michigan State and in the Canadian Football League.
\textsuperscript{235} The \textit{Delta of Sigma Nu}, May 1948, p. 237.
\textsuperscript{236} The \textit{Delta of Sigma Nu}, November 1948, p. 117.
member of the Chapter.”

Near the beginning of the second term of the Spring 1949 semester, the chapter “held one of its almost bi-weekly, informal dances. Alcoholic beverages and temperaments flowed freely, and led to the indictment of the Fraternity by the dean’s office. Charged with breaking two university rules - a serenade after two a.m., and the ‘consumption of liquor in an organized house,’ the Chapter soon found itself on social probation.”

Gamma Mu teamed with Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority for the stunt show. James C. Dolan headed the effort. The following year he was chosen as the chairman of the new variety show which the university was producing. He was “busy writing script and in casting talent hopefuls. It may well be one of the greatest college shows.” The intramural football trophy the chapter won the year before was displayed above the chapter’s radio. It was reported that “Bill Jackson, our Social Chairman, is planning a ‘Bop Hop’ for the evening after the Illinois-Purdue game. Bill Russo and his orchestra is being booked for our annual White Rose formal this winter. Meanwhile, there is significant talk about the revival of the Black-Foot White-Foot Formal which was formerly held in conjunction with the ATOs next door.”

The entire Chapter helped to make Gamma Mu’s “Minsky’s” one of the “most popular shows at the university’s Spring Carnival. A clever pantomime to several of Spike Jones’s records left the audiences weak with laughter.” Among the graduating seniors was Armen G. Avedisian.

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237 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, December 1948, p. 155.

238 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, March 1950, p. 172.

239 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, May 1949, p. 273. Dolan became an established voice-over announcer in Chicago. He belonged to both the Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists.

240 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, December 1948, p. 155.

241 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, December 1948, p. 155.

242 According to *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, Winter 1987, p. 6, “Avedisian began with a degree in civil engineering...When he graduated in 1949, many roads, bridges and airports were being built. He found opportunities he wouldn’t have had if he had been born twenty years earlier, he noted. The bonuses he earned with his first job’s salary provided him a base for investing in an asphalt firm. At 37, he began his own business and ran seven quarrying and heavy-equipment firms which won multimillion-dollar contracts with chiefly the State of Illinois and the federal government. In addition to his work with the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island project, Avedisian devotes time to interests in acquiring art and in volunteer organizations.”
The chapter was on social probation for the 1948-49 year. The upshot of the situation was that the chapter made the greatest scholarship improvement among the fraternities. Participation in campus activities also increased. John M. King, was named chairman of Homecoming Decorations and publicity chairman of the Illini Union for the fall semester.243

The chapter dealt with its social probation, “There were endless conferences with the deans and numerous retrospective chapter meetings. These discussions led to a complete reorganization and strengthening of the chapter by-laws and attitudes. Hazing and brow-beating of pledges was completely eliminated and supplanted by encouragement and house loyalty. There was a more vivid appreciation of the motto, Creed, and traditions of Sigma Nu. This change caused Gamma Mu to be heralded by the Office of the Dean of Men as the most progressive of the 56 national fraternities and 26 national sororities on the Illinois campus. Don’t get the idea that the Sigma Nus were the campus bad boys. There were seven other fraternities and two sororities facing the same problem. The strict enforcement of the student living-code was a preventive measure against the type of habits enjoyed by the vivacious students of the roaring 20’s. Gamma Mu was still singing the dirge of probation until late in October of 1949. At that period the social emotions were released with a bang at two functions, the ‘Liberation Lurch,’ and the annual winter formal. The ‘Liberation Lurch’ was a strictly informal record dance. The theme was that of tough guys and gals on parole. A buffet supper was served consisting of turkey, ham and all the ‘fixin’s.’ Surprisingly enough, many of the men found that the dean of men was enjoying himself as a guest of the Chapter. He wasn’t a ‘rat.’ The White Star Formal, in contrast, was a less casual affair. Music was supplied by Bill Russo and his very fine orchestra (Bill, a Chicagoan, is now an arranger with the 1950 Stan Kenton progressive jazz group.) The food was also excellent with the ‘unspiked’ punch. The Illini Sigma Nus discovered, to the surprise of some, that house dances can be more spontaneous and enjoyable without ‘Demon

243 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, October 1949, p. 35.
Rum.’ Don’t get us wrong; we would be the last group to campaign for prohibition, but we now realize we can easily do without ‘booze’ in the house - especially when it is a university ordinance.”

The 1949 Homecoming Stunt Show featured four Gamma Mus: Charles F. Hardtke, Jr., tenor; Carl E. Foster, lead; S. Jerome Reagan, baritone; and Joseph R. Hale, bass, in an act “that reeked of hilarity but bespoke good showmanship.”

Activities for the spring 1950 semester included “the Spring Carnival, numerous exchange desserts and informal dances, the Beachcombers’ Ball, and our Spring Formal - activities which fall more closely within the Chapter. But even more attention is directed toward Mother’s Day, with its rollicking good humor and to all other events which will lead us to alumni meetings. Our visitor book pages are filling quickly of late and we heartily invite more of our alumni to re-acquaint themselves with this Chapter.”

The chapter won trophies in the spring intramural competition. The chapter received another first-place trophy for its entry, “Stagedoor Uproar,” in the annual Spring Carnival. It was a “comedy pantomime using the records of Spike Jones and the hilarious antics of George K. Hughes, Thomas R. Czaja, Hillard Mandell, and Carl E. Foster. The rest of the men were used as barkers, advertisers, members of a German band, and in the construction of the booth.”

The Spring 1950 social activities included the Beachcombers’ Ball and the White Rose Formal. “For the Beachcombers’ Ball the house was elaborately decorated with waving palm trees, island scenes, a miniature beach (twelve cubic yards of sand), and a man-made lagoon. Those present wore sarongs, bathing suits, and beachcomber attire. The White Rose Formal was slightly more conservative, and the house was beautifully decorated with white trellis-work, gates, and fences covered with dozens of White Roses. During the dance intermission a buffet dinner of turkey, ham,
salads, and dessert was served.”248 A Pledge Trophy was inaugurated for the highest ranking pledge, both in scholarship and in activities; a jeweled Sigma Nu pin went along with the honor. About 35 mothers participated in the Mother’s Day celebration at the chapter house.249

The change in chapter attitude was reflected in this report from the Convention Proceedings, “Real fraternity spirit has been clearly in evidence in this Chapter during the past year. Strained relations with the university authorities have successfully been overcome through social contact with university officers and faculty which permitted a better understanding and appreciation of the Chapter problems and personnel. Dr. William A. Ferguson, Chapter Adviser, has exerted a good influence and has helped the Chapter in budgeting its operating costs and the Chapter is operating on a sound financial basis. A Gamma Mu Alumni Chapter is being organized and it is hoped that the collegiate chapter may derive the many benefits that can be made available through better organized alumni activity and interest.”250

Fourteen men were pledged during the fall 1950 semester. The chapter was paired with Zeta Tau Alpha for the Stunt Show try-outs. Their entry made the coveted top ten. That meant that the skit was selected for presentation at the Homecoming week-end program, “About 20 men from the Chapter are participating in the musical production, with outstanding solo numbers by Cornelius F. Dore, Jr., Carl F. Radke, and the famed Sigma Nu quartet.”251

The 1950 Homecoming game was a special one for the Gamma Mu chapter. More than 125 alumni returned for the contest against Indiana (the Illini won 20-0). After the game there was an open house at 1009 West Pennsylvania. Coffee and doughnuts were the fare. That evening the annual alumni banquet took place. Herbert R. Hedman, class of 1912, was honored with a plaque for his long service as an alumni corporation officer. He had not missed a homecoming since 1911.

248 The Delta of Sigma Nu, October 1950, p. 31.
249 The Delta of Sigma Nu, October 1950, p. 31.
250 The Delta of Sigma Nu, November 1950, p. 129.
251 The Delta of Sigma Nu, December 1950, p. 176.
The inscription on the plaque read. “In Honor of Brother Herbert R. Hedman with Deep Appreciation for his Years of Loyal Service and Devotion and the Generous Contribution of His Versatile Talents to the Many Tasks He Has Successfully Accomplished for the Benefit of Gamma Mu Chapter of Sigma Nu Fraternity.”

The annual winter formal took place the week-end before Christmas vacation. The dance’s theme was based “on a fashionable night club theme, the chapter house being the Hotel Five Armes. Highlights of the decorations were the ‘Gay- Nineties Room’ which had tables with checkered cloths, candle-light, and pin-up girl pictures of the period. Music for the dance was styled by Bill Russo, popular Chicago band leader who is currently arranging for Stan Kenton. Congratulations go to Ronald J. Wallace, dance chairman.”

The fall 1950 semester began with fears about the war in Korea, “While the war scare has been putting considerable pressure on most fraternities on campus. Gamma Mu is still filled up to capacity. Up-to-date we have lost only two men to the Services: Wilfred G. Landreth, Air Force, and Pledge Richard Wyche, Navy. We have a lot of good prospects for pledging next semester and I’m sure the house will be going strong next year in spite of the draft law.”

The spring semester was always a busy one for the chapter, and spring 1951 was no exception. The activities included Mothers’ weekend. Gamma Mu’s program consisted of a buffet luncheon at noon, banquet Saturday night, and a sing and entertainment program at 11 o’clock. The day closed with a serenade to the mothers.

For the 1951 Spring Carnival, Gamma Mu was paired with Kappa Delta. The stakes were high as the chapter had previously won the first-place trophy for the most money collected and the best
over-all show.255 About 30 high school players and coaches stayed at the chapter house during the Sweet Sixteen Basketball Tournament, “Of the boys that were with us, there were many good rushing prospects for this summer and next fall.”256

The annual White Rose Formal was held May 12, 1951. For the first time, a White Rose Queen was crowned at the dance. Alpha Phi Doris Lightfoot was elected the White Rose Queen. The Beachcombers’ Ball, May 26 was becoming a bigger and bigger production, “The setting was a picturesque South Sea beach with a full (painted) moon overhead. This tropical paradise was created in what normally serves as our dining-room and chapter room, both of which are located on the basement level; thus was possible to cover the floor with sand and for part of the area to have some water effects. The brothers and their dates thoroughly enjoyed their night in the tropics.”257

Rob, the Irish Setter, went missing during the fall of 1951 and despite a concerted effort trying to locate him, he was not found. Of Rob it was said, “Majestic and proud in appearance with his fine russet-coated body, he was at the same time gentle and playful. A true diplomat, he never gave evidence of temper, no matter how much some might playfully tease him. He was indeed the ideal fraternity dog and has been greatly missed by this Chapter.” The chapter adopted a new mascot, a boxer named Brutus.258

For the fall 1951 pledge class, a new “Pledge Merit System” was tested, “Under this program each pledge must have attained a minimum number of points previous to his initiation. These points or merits are earned as a result of his participation in each of the four main aspects of fraternity life - social, scholarship, house, and campus. There is a total of 75 merits, which is divided as 15 for social, 15 for campus, 20 for house, 10 for scholarship, and 15 which can be earned from

255 The Delta of Sigma Nu, September 1951, p. 38.
256 The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1951, p. 309.
257 The Delta of Sigma Nu, September 1951, p. 38.
258 The Delta of Sigma Nu, February 1952, p. 158.
any of the four. Of course we realize that our experiment will need modification as its defects become apparent.”

May again was a busy month. Mothers’ Weekend, May 3, 4, and 5, 1952, found the Gamma Mus hosting their moms. The highlight of the weekend was when the moms were serenaded at the mother-son banquet. A week later, the White Rose Formal took place. The chapter house was transformed into a formal Garden of White Roses. Zeta Tau Alpha Jean Erase was crowned White Rose Queen. For the Beachcombers’ Ball, 21 tons of sand covered the chapter room and dining room floors. Decorations included “palm trees, grass shacks, and a volcanic pool. The sarong clad couples entered down a ship’s ladder.”

At the Drake Relays that spring, Lawton B. Lamb, Jr., ran a leg on the two-mile relay team which set a new American record. The chapter was nearing its 50-year anniversary, and plans were being formulated to celebrate sometime during the fall 1952 football season.

Four Gamma Mu members represented the active chapter at the Grand Chapter meeting held at Mackinac Island, Michigan in the summer of 1952. Frank Thorne emceed the all-Sigma Nu Talent Show and it was headlined by comedian James Dolan, both Gamma Mu alumni.

During the period between September 9-12, 1952, the chapter rushed 155 men. The resulting pledge class of 30 men was believed to be the largest in Gamma Mu history. The highlight of the fall semester was the celebration of Gamma Mu’s 50 years of the Illinois campus. Herbert Hedman, who had lived through almost all the chapter’s history, and chapter member Ronald F. Wittmeyer coordinated the October 17-19, 1952 festivities. They took place from October 17-19 over the weekend of the Illinois-Minnesota game. Registration and introductions took place on Friday

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259 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, April 1952, p. 52.
261 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, September 1952, p. 38.
262 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, November 1952, p. 191.
263 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, November 1952, p. 191.
afternoon. That evening, “after dinner at the chapter house, a formal initiation was held with all of the brothers, past and present, attending. After initiation refreshments were served in the chapter house. The morning of the 18th was spent in sight-seeing. After a buffet lunch, the Illinois-Minnesota game provided the afternoon’s entertainment. A banquet was served in the Garden Room of Urbana’s Lincoln Hotel on Saturday evening. Honored guests were introduced by Frank H. Thorne, Toastmaster. Among those attending were General Secretary Malcolm C. Sewell, Grand Treasurer John Roberts, President Herbert Hedman of Gamma Mu Alumni Chapter, Chapter Adviser William Ferguson, Dean Frederick Turner of the university, and Commander J. Rexford Bendigkeit. Dean Turner delivered a short address on fraternities at Illinois. He commended Sigma Nu on being one of the first national fraternities on this, the largest fraternity university in the world, campus. After his speech Dean Turner presented the Chapter with the original charter application which was on file with the university. Sunday, the 19th, after dinner at the house, the alumni returned to their various homes.”

The spring 1953 semester was the first time a National Service Week was mentioned. The chapter “put in a full day performing necessary work at the Burnham City Hospital in Champaign. The men washed windows, cleaned walls, cleaned out storage rooms, as well as other general cleanup duties.” The Spring Carnival had a new category of competition, the movie division, and the chapter was primed to produce a winning show. Mothers Weekend, the White Rose Formal, and the Beachcombers’ Ball rounded out the spring semester.

During the fall of 1953, the Gamma Mus and their neighbors, the Alpha Tau Omega men, “turned ‘hep’ to a pre-dance jam session where the Chapter musicians really let themselves go. The occasion was the afternoon of the infamous V.M.I. Ball, commonly called the Black-foot White-foot

264 The Delta of Sigma Nu, February 1953, p. 243.
265 The Delta of Sigma Nu, September 1953, p. 41.
266 The Delta of Sigma Nu, April 1953, p. 299.
Dance, which all the students talked about, since paper white and black feet were hung up all about campus for publicity. The dance itself was held in the Green Room of the Urbana-Lincoln Hotel, where Johnny Bruce and his orchestra provided the best in music. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed himself in the last ‘fling’ before finals started. As the V.M.I. Ball became an annual affair, the Sigma Nus and Alpha Tau Omegas all look forward in anticipation for next year’s presentation. Before the Christmas holiday, the chapter sung Christmas carols at 21 sororities, and “were loudly applauded by all.”

On January 16, 1954, the Gamma Mus had the “pleasure of having Bill Finnegan and Ed Sauter of the Sauter-Finnegan organization out to dinner. The two guests were starring in the Camel Caravan (which was broadcast from the U. of I. that afternoon), and were also conducting a concert that evening in Champaign. Mr. Sauter and Mr. Finnegan were well liked by all the Sigma Nus and the Kappa Kappa Gammas, who were also dinner guests that evening.”

Chapter singing, due mostly to the efforts of song-leader W. Bruce Aufderhaar, led the improvement in chapter singing and the chapter was practicing for the inter-fraternity competition. For the Spring Carnival was paired with its “sister sorority, Alpha Xi Delta, to present an outstanding movie.”

In the fall of 1954, Mary Barnhill, the new House Mother, greeted the Gamma Mus. Three returning servicemen - Wilfred G. Landreth, Bob Solomon, and Frank L. Jenkins, Jr. - were back on campus. Gamma Mu pledged 23 men with the “aid of an intensive summer rushing program topped by a rush party given by Brother C. P. Van Schaack, Jr., of Wilmette, Ill.” The Office of the Dean of Men announced that the chapter made it to the top 10%, in scholastic improvement

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267 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, April 1954, p. 177.
268 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, April 1954, p. 178.
269 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, April 1954, p. 177.
270 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, April 1954, p. 178.
271 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, November 1954, p. 82.
among the 57 fraternities for the previous year. Ronald G. Nylen was awarded the chapter’s newly-established scholarship trophy. Early in the fall, after a serenade, the chapter awarded the Kappa Kappa Gammas with the new traveling Sigma Nu Girl Trophy, “Until the next Sigma Nu Girl is chosen next spring, the trophy will be in the safekeeping of the Kappas and Miss Alice Stoik, the queen.” The chapter’s Homecoming house decorations took second place; Donald L. Lurtz, headed up the chapter’s effort.

On January 15, 1955, the annual V.M.I. Ball in conjunction with the Alpha Tau Omega chapter, took place at the Urbana-Lincoln Hotel. It was preceded by a dinner at the Champaign Moose Club. The chapter’s “track team copped second place in the annual Pennsylvania Avenue Pajama Race, and fared even better by taking second place in the All-University Skull and Crescent Pajama Race held in the Armory.” During the last week of March, a service day, “Greek Day” took place and the members did community service. That evening, Ralph Marterie’s band played at the annual Interfraternity Ball in Huff Gym. The chapter was paired with the women of Alpha Gamma Delta in the annual Spring Carnival on April 16 in the University Armory. The Carnival, “proved both disappointing and enjoyable to the brothers and to their partners for this year’s Carnival, the girls of Alpha Gamma Delta. Although, we were not successful in capturing the coveted first place trophy, the weeks of preparation and Carnival night itself provided us with many thrilling moments.” The chapter won seventh place in the final All-University Intramural standing out of 53 competitors. The Beachcombers’ Ball and White Rose Formal were held just before final

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272 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, November 1954, p. 82.
274 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, April 1955, p. 184.
275 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, April 1955, p. 184.
276 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, September 1955, p. 27.
277 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, April 1955, p. 184.
278 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, September 1955, p. 27.
exams. JoAnn Stark, Pi Beta Phi, was named the White Rose Queen. Saunders McCord received the University of Illinois Scholarship Trophy for Freshmen for the spring 1955 semester.279

George P. Andreos was the Chairman of the Interfraternity Rushing Council for the 1955-56 school year. He chaired the entire fall rushing program and delivered the orientation talks during Rush Week.280 After a two-year absence, the chapter brought the annual Pennsylvania Avenue Pajama Race trophy back home. It joined the All-University first place trophy for Homecoming Decorations; Robert L. Ekedahl and Donald E. Gribble directed that effort. Before Thanksgiving, the pledge class took second place in the University Skull and Crescent Honorary Pajama Race.281 The chapter won the University Inter-Fraternity Scholarship Improvement Trophy for their efforts during the first semester.282

On January 14, 1956, the joint Sigma Nu-Alpha Tau Omega V.M.I. Ball took place at the Urbana-Lincoln Hotel. Charles B. Hoefer and his committee were credited with making “this dance one of the best in recent years.”283 Sigma Nu was paired with Alpha Phi for spring carnival. Their show, entitled “Spring Fever,” was awarded second place; a technical oversight prevented it from placing in the first three places.284

Nineteen men were initiated on March 4, 1956. The chapter was participating with Chi Omega in the Co-Recreational Bowling League. The White Rose Formal took place on April 28, followed by the Beachcombers’ Ball on May 12.285

Over the summer of 1956, the coal furnace was replaced with a gas heating system. It was noted that “new interior painting, completely new dining room furniture, and new modern lamps

279 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, February 1956, p. 131.
280 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, November 1955, p. 86.
281 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, February 1956, p. 131.
282 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, April 1956, p. 182.
283 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, February 1956, p. 131.
284 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, September 1956, p. 23.
285 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, April 1956, p. 182.
and ash trays have been installed.”286 Alumnus William A. Suter, a law student, was hired as commissary manager to run the kitchen. The chapter house was full with 18 pledges and 54 actives.287

October 26, 1956 was a sad day for Sigma Nu Fraternity. Frank Hilton Thorne died suddenly at his home. A 1912 initiate who was present at the initiation of his son, Frank Jr., he had spent 35 years serving on various Fraternity song committees. In 1920, he was a member of the committee which selected “The White Star of Sigma Nu” as a contest winner. He “prepared the Fraternity’s ‘Harmony Song Pamphlet,’ published in 1945, writing four-voice arrangements for 19 of the songs it included. Since 1948 he had prepared the ‘Keep Sigma Nu Singing’ column...He was chairman of the standing committee on Fraternity songs, and found great pleasure in the job, lending his enthusiasm to every Sigma Nu gathering in which he took part….From 1944 until 1950 he served as Inspector of the Michigan-Illinois Division. He had attended seven Grand Chapters, including the last one at Roanoke, where he served as song leader and master of ceremonies for the talent program….during the 1955 Leadership Conference at Bloomington, Ind., when he taught more than 300 delegates a new song in four-part harmony in something less than 20 minutes. At Roanoke he became ill, but would not allow that illness to prevent his participation in the Grand Chapter program. His enthusiasm for good Fraternity singing was almost evangelical. His parting words at Roanoke were, ‘Keep Sigma Nu Singing.’”288

The spring 1957 semester featured the chapter’s traditional White Rose Ball on April 6. Sally Barton, a Kappa Kappa Gamma, was chosen as the Sigma Nu Girl.289 The Beachcombers’ Ball took place in May; it was reported that “Sigma Nu makes campus history at Illinois with this costume dance. The setting is of the South Sea Islands, and the decorations include 25 tons of sand piled over

286 The Delta of Sigma Nu, November 1956, p. 76.
287 The Delta of Sigma Nu, November 1956, p. 76.
288 The Delta of Sigma Nu, February 1957, p. 154.
289 The Delta of Sigma Nu, September 1957, p. 24.
one whole floor of the house, palm trees, and a flowing stream of clear water coming from a waterfall and winding down through the scene.”

Two members, pledge Dave Klingel and senior Ron Nylen were straight-A men. To honor them and encourage others to strive for straight-A status, a plaque was installed. Sophomore Bruce Karr, represented Gamma Mu in the intercollegiate wheelchair basketball league. During Greek Week, the Fireplug Five Plus One trio, Carl Keller, clarinet, Dick Newberry, piano, and Paul Bowman, trumpet, competed in “Illini Varieties.” When the rankings came out for the spring semester, the pledges ranked fourth and the house placed thirteenth, out of 57 fraternities. For the academic year, the chapter ranked fifth.

Seven men were initiated on August 29, 1957. For the Fall Homecoming Stunt Show, the chapter was paired with Alpha Chi Omega.

Out of almost 200 rushees, Gamma Mu pledged 26 men. John Paul was elected president of Ma-Wan-Da; Paul was also an Illini basketball player. For the 1957-58 season, Frank Hailand was elected captain of the Illini gymnastics team. On Friday, December 13, there was a Christmas tree trimming party at the chapter house, it took place prior to the informal dance. The “following Tuesday the brothers went caroling at many sororities across campus. An exchange with Kappa Kappa Gamma on Wednesday was planned around a Christmas theme. And on Thursday we celebrated that last evening on campus before Christmas with a banquet.”

For the first semester of the year, the chapter ranked tenth out of 58 fraternities. The pledges ranked sixth. On February 8, the chapter hosted eight pledge classes for an informal dance. On February 22, 1958, Gamma Mu initiated 13 men. Sigma Nu and Kappa Alpha Theta were paired for

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290 The Delta of Sigma Nu, April 1957, p. 181.
291 The Delta of Sigma Nu, April 1957, p. 181.
292 The Delta of Sigma Nu, November 1957, p. 80.
293 The Delta of Sigma Nu, September 1957, p. 25.
294 The Delta of Sigma Nu, November 1957, p. 80
295 The Delta of Sigma Nu, February 1958, p. 129.
Sheequon, a campuswide spring event, which took place on April 19. Each paired team created a float for an afternoon parade and an evening entertainment.\textsuperscript{296} The chapter finished fourth in intramurals.\textsuperscript{297}

The November 1958 \textit{Delta} contained this following teaser titled “IT CAN BE DONE-THEY DID IT!” It read, “Chapter X did it ... in four years, climbed out of the campus scholarship cellar (49th of 57, and dead last in Sigma Nu) to 9th last session, and still found time to: Earn one of the top five spots in intramurals with two campus championships, three runnersup, and a football league tie. Produce a Jazz Concert group finalist. Double the chapter’s operating surplus. Turn out two varsity sport captains and a host of fine varsity prospects from freshmen ranks, Publish an outstanding alumni newsletter series . . Chapter X? Gamma Mu.”\textsuperscript{298}

Ten men were initiated on Thursday, August 28, 1958, and another 16 were pledged during Rush Week. The Mothers’ Association purchased a new rug for the chapter’s lounge and a new deep fryer for the commissary.\textsuperscript{299} The annual Homecoming festivities took place. The Gamma Mus “were a happy lot as winners of the Interfraternity Grand Prize for Homecoming house decorations with the mini Nebbish shouting, ‘Hey Spartans, Here’s Your Quarterback,’”\textsuperscript{300} The chapter hosted their dads for the annual Dad’s Day football weekend. The Dads’ Club contributed toward the purchase of new furniture for the “Green Room.”\textsuperscript{301}

January 10, 1959 was the date of the annual V.M.I. Ball with the Alpha Tau Omega chapter. The grades for the fall semester were announced and “for the fifth straight semester Gamma Mu has improved academically. The pledge class average was 3.61 out of a possible 5.0, while the house as a
whole averaged a few points higher. These averages were good enough to place the pledges in the top five and the house in the top ten out of fifty-eight fraternities on campus.”

For Sheequon, the spring carnival at the University of Illinois, Gamma Mu was paired with Chi Omega. The joint effort, “Gone With the Wigwams” was directed by Bob Lenz. Mothers’ Weekend, Beachcombers’ Ball, and Rush Weekend followed. Mothers’ Weekend “meant lots of fun for both mothers and sons as the brothers, headed by chairman Jim LaVelle, entertained their mothers with a party on Friday night, house attendance at the University production of Oklahoma Saturday night, and a banquet Sunday after church services.” For the Beachcombers’ Ball, “the brothers decorated both themselves and the chapter house for the occasion. The chapter house dining room was filled with twenty-five tons of sand and featured palm trees, a waterfall, and a stream running through the sand. The event was begun with a fun-filled afternoon party which was then followed by dancing at the chapter house.” A Rush Weekend took place on May 16. The chapter “treated the high school rushees to stock car races, an afternoon at the State track finals, climaxed by a picnic in the evening. This marked the start of what promises to be another successful rush season.”

The “Duffer’s Open,” a golf meet for Gamma Mus, took place on June 12, 1959, at the Woodbridge Country Club in Lisle, a Chicago suburb. An afternoon of golf was followed by a banquet at the club.

During the summer of 1959, the “Green Room” and Chapter Room were redecorated. The first phase of a three-year plan to enlarge and update the house’s electrical system was completed. Homecoming was October 17 and the chapter was paired with Pi Beta Phi for the Homecoming.

302 The Delta of Sigma Nu, April 1959, p. 191.
303 The Delta of Sigma Nu, September 1959, p. 36.
304 The Delta of Sigma Nu, September 1959, p. 36.
305 The Delta of Sigma Nu, September 1959, p. 36.
306 The Delta of Sigma Nu, September 1959, p. 36.
Stunt Show which occurred the evening prior to the game. Dads’ Day took place on November 7 and “the dads will move into the house for a weekend of good times.”

Mary Barnhill, the chapter’s housemother for more than five years, was honored at a tea. More than 200 faculty members, housemothers, and house presidents attended. The chapter was paired with Gamma Phi Beta for the Sheequon Carnival. “The Sigma Nu Blues,” a “modern vocal quartet, will be defending its crown in the campus-wide contest for jazz groups. The quartet-combo sing modern arrangements in the Four Freshmen style and plan to make video tapes this spring to be shown on local television.” For the previous three years, the group took first place honors in All-University Jazz Contest.

The fall of 1960 started on a high note. The chapter pledged 23 men and had the highest bid return rate of the 58 fraternities. The pledges included two All-American high school football players, an all-American basketball player, and an All-American high school swimmer. Paired with Kappa Alpha Theta in the Stunt Show, the duo placed second out of 30 entries.

For the spring 1961 event, Gamma Mu was paired with Delta Gamma. Jerry Curless received honorable mention in the All-America basketball selection.

The Fall 1961 Delta reported that Dennis B. Carroll was runner up for the Sigma Nu Man of the Year honors. Carroll, an Engineering Mechanics major, was Eminent Commander. He also served as Vice-Chairman of the Interfraternity Council’s Judiciary Committee and I.F.C. Executive Vice-President. For the previous year, he was chosen as one of four outstanding University of

307 The Delta of Sigma Nu, November 1959, p. 96.
308 The Delta of Sigma Nu, April 1960, p. 232.
309 The Delta of Sigma Nu, August 1960, p. 58.
310 The Delta of Sigma Nu, December 1960, p. 184.
311 The Delta of Sigma Nu, May 1961, p. 257.
Illinois fraternity men. He was a member of the teaching faculty of the 1961 Sigma Nu College of Chapters in Lexington.

Senior Illini tackle Pat Murphy, who played both offense and defense, was rated by his coach as one of the top blockers in the Big 10 during the 1961 season. Gamma Mu and Chi Omega made the finals of the Homecoming Stunt Show. Thomas Dolan, Jr. won a Bronze Tablet award.

Alumnus Douglas R. Mills, who after being an Illini athlete and coach, was serving as the University’s Director of Athletics. He was a long-time member of the U. S. Olympic Basketball Committee and had been reappointed to another term on the committee.

On April 24, 1962, Dennis Bruce Carroll and James Thompson Hendrick were awarded the titles of Outstanding Senior and Junior Greek, respectively. It was the second year Carroll was honored. Chapter Adviser and Division Commander, William A. Ferguson, received the Dean Fred H. Turner award. The award was named in honor of Turner, an Illinois administrator who began at the University in 1922 and had been Dean of Students since 1943. Sigma Nu Executive Secretary, Richard R. Fletcher, attended the awards ceremony and made remarks. Carroll nominated Ferguson for the award. In the nomination, Carroll wrote, “Widely known for his dry humor and pithy observations on campus and fraternity life, Ferguson is well-liked and highly respected by all who know him.”

312 The Delta of Sigma Nu, Fall 1961, p. 6.
313 The Delta of Sigma Nu, Fall 1961, p. 7.
314 The Delta of Sigma Nu, Winter 1962, p. 105.
315 The Delta of Sigma Nu, Winter 1962, p. 121.
316 The Delta of Sigma Nu, Fall, 1961, p. 6.
317 The Delta of Sigma Nu, Spring 1962, p. 170.
318 The Delta of Sigma Nu, Summer 1962, p. 256.
319 The Delta of Sigma Nu, Summer 1962, p. 256
The chapter initiated its 1,000th member on March 3, 1962. The fifth annual “Duffer’s Open” alumni golf outing took place on June 15, 1962.\textsuperscript{320}

Jim Hendrick was awarded the Sigma Nu’s 1963 Achievement-of-the-Year plaque from the national organization. Hendricks was elected student body president. He served as Legislative Vice-President of the Student Senate and was chosen one of the two outstanding junior Greek men on campus. He was also a member of Omicron Delta Kappa and Ma-Wan-Da.\textsuperscript{321}

For the 1962-63 year, the chapter was above the all-men’s and all-fraternities averages. The chapter house, valued at $165,000, had a newly remodelled kitchen. It accommodated 63 men.\textsuperscript{322} For the following year, the chapter ranked seventh in scholarship and fifth in intramurals. Alfred B. LaBarre, the Chapter’s Eminent Commander was named one of five outstanding Greeks. The pledge class gave the house a pedigreed English Bulldog.\textsuperscript{323}

In 1965, Carroll was selected as an Affiliate of Alpha Chapter, a tradition of Sigma Nu Fraternity which began in 1964 as a way to honor outstanding members.\textsuperscript{324} Chapter Adviser Ferguson, published “Reaching Up for Better Grades.” It was originally presented as a program at the 1965 Sigma Nu College of Chapters.\textsuperscript{325}

The January 1966 Delta contained this telling statement in the Gamma Mu section, “There is currently another factor affecting individuals today that may be temporary or semi-permanent. I am alluding to Selective Service and various statements emanating from its director. The most popular student joke of the past month at Illinois goes as follows: Have you heard about the new University of Illinois grading system? No, what is it? A, B, C, D, V. V? Yes, V stands for Viet Nam.”

\textsuperscript{320} The Delta of Sigma Nu, Spring 1962, p. 196.
\textsuperscript{321} The Delta of Sigma Nu, Fall 1966, p. 34.
\textsuperscript{322} The Delta of Sigma Nu, Summer 1963, p. 223.
\textsuperscript{323} The Delta of Sigma Nu, Winter 1965, p. 97.
\textsuperscript{324} The Delta of Sigma Nu, Fall 1965, p. 13.
\textsuperscript{325} The Delta of Sigma Nu, Winter 1966, p. 77.
During the 1965-66 academic year, the chapter sponsored a dance with the proceeds going to charity. Fred Aprati was the captain of the wrestling team.326

At the 42nd Grand Chapter in 1966, Hendrick was inducted into the ranks of Alpha Chapter. He won the 1962 Sigma Nu Achievement of the Year award. In addition, “He served his chapter as secretary, was Student body president at the University of Illinois, winning election to that post by a two to one majority. He was a legislative vice president of the student senate, and was named by the Interfraternity Council as one of the two outstanding junior fraternity men on campus. Brother Hendrick is a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, a top scholar with a 4.5 academic average on a 5.0 system, and is currently enrolled in Harvard Law School.”327

Philanthropy was becoming a bigger part of chapter life. During the 1966-67 year, the chapter “spent a day with retarded children at a state hospital, cleaned up debris for the elderly after a storm, and did odd jobs to raise funds for a university scholarship program.”328

The Fall 1967 issue of the Delta reported on Gamma Mus who were serving in the Vietnam War. There were pictures of Chaplain Conrad Walker. In Vietnam, he conducted makeshift Sunday services in an abandoned rubber plantation. The article stated, “Some make it back, like Colonel Jesse M. Allen (Gamma Mu, Illinois). Allen, now assigned to the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon, doesn’t select a specific mission as the focal point in his tour as head of the most successful bunch of MIG hunters over North Vietnam. ‘What I remember above all,’ he recalls, ‘is a five-year-old Thai girl who had crossed eyes. Our pilots and airmen collected enough money to send her to Bangkok for an operation to correct her eyes. They are now straight and her whole personality has changed.’ During his Southeast Asia tour, the colonel commanded the 555th ‘Triple Nickel’ Tactical Fighter Squadron in Thailand. During his tenure, the 555th downed 10 of the better

327 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, Fall 1966, p. 34.
328 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, Summer 1967, p. 222.
than 15 MIGS now credited to the F-4C Phantom II equipped squadron. Brother Allen logged 88 missions over North Vietnam. Coincidentally, he flew 150 combat missions during 1951 with the same outfit in jet fighters in Korea. ‘The tactics in the Vietnamese war,’ the tall Midwesterner says, ‘are almost mission for mission the same as those used in Korea. We knocked out bridges, stopped troops and munitions from moving and interdicted highways and rail lines. But the pilots are better in Southeast Asia,’ Colonel Allen adds. ‘They are more mature and they’re older with a sense of judgment that more than compensates for age.’ If the colonel could select a single air battle as his most memorable, it would probably be the one of January 2, 1967. His pilots were part of the strike force that downed seven MIG-21’s in a single encounter over ‘Thud Ridge’... a mountain range in the Red River Valley deep inside North Vietnam.’

Michale Hays and John Frey maintained a 5.0. Frey was named to Skull and Crescent.

The Delta Sigma Chapter at Carnegie-Mellon recorded an album of Sigma Nu songs and dedicated it to the memory of Frank Thorne, “He left Sigma Nu a musical heritage second to none. We ask a former Chairman of the Music Committee, Brother Maurice E. ‘Molly’ Reagan, Frank Thorne’s roommate at Gamma Mu, to present Album No. 1 to Brother Frank Thorne, Jr. requesting him to give it to his mother Edna with the affectionate regards of Sigma Nu.”

The chapter ranked above the all-men’s and all-fraternity averages for the 1967-68 academic year. Carpeting and panelling were installed in the chapter house. Two brothers earned perfect 5.0 averages and one was named an Outstanding Commerce Student.

During the 1970-71 year, the chapter philanthropic efforts included collecting funds for the Heart Fund and American Cancer Crusade. The chapter was in the top third scholastically for the

329 The Delta of Sigma Nu, Fall 1967, p. 43.
330 The Delta of Sigma Nu, Winter 1968, p. 95.
331 The Delta of Sigma Nu, Fall 1968, p. 187.
332 The Delta of Sigma Nu, Fall 1968, p. 217.
333 The Delta of Sigma Nu, July 1971, p. 7.
1971-72 year. During that year, the chapter members helped raise funds for the local Cancer Drive and the Multiple Sclerosis Drive. It was reported that the Fall 1972 semester would begin with 15 actives and 13 pledges. A letter from Frank H. Thorne (Jr.), Secretary of Gamma Mu’s House Corporation, sent a letter to the chapter’s alumni. It included a square box with the word “NOTICE” on top. In the box was this warning, “I regret to inform you that the Gamma Mu chapter of Sigma Nu will discontinue operations and close its (sic) chapter house permanently on June 30th, 1972, or June 30th, 19??, due to lack of members and alumni support.” He continued, “Above is the notice that was almost posted last year when our undergraduate chapter had only 35 members and was losing 15 of them, with dim prospects of early replacements. It was impossible for me to imagine 1009 W. Pennsylvania Avenue with only 20 men in it. But, that was what a very disheartened group of brothers was faced with last fall. Very fortunately, with hard work, timely support and encouragement from the house corporation, our undergraduate group is now back to a much healthier size; financially breaking even and has improved prospects.” He went on to add, “In the past two years, several Illinois fraternity and sorority chapters have folded.”

Whereas up until the 1960s, the chapter letters in the Delta contained a good deal of information, the 1970s Deltas contained hardly any. One bit of good news was that Robert A. Marshalla was a finalist for the 1972 Sigma Nu Scholar of the Year Award.

The January 1975 Delta reported that the University of Illinois fraternities and sororities came together as a cooperative to save on food costs. “Generally businesses and suppliers in city bid to co-op for prices on specific items. Co-op then buys from lowest bidders and the Fraternity buys from the Co-op,” the article stated.

334 The Delta of Sigma Nu, August 1972, p. 10.
335 Personal Communication, Frank H. Thorne, September 26, 1972, Courtesy of the University of Illinois Archives.
336 Personal Communication, Frank H. Thorne, September 26, 1972, Courtesy of the University of Illinois Archives.
337 The Delta of Sigma Nu, September 1972, p. 5.
338 The Delta of Sigma Nu, January 1975, p. 3.
On March 5, 1976, the chapter ‘threw open the doors of their house to the entire campus for one of the biggest parties the campus has ever seen. The purpose of the party was to raise money to help sponsor Brother John R. Hostetter and Kathy Griffin in the National Dance Marathon, a project which benefited the National Association of Retarded Citizens. The entertainment for the party was provided by the house’s own ‘Whitefoot’ band. The chapter made $400 which helped the Marathon raise more than $70,000. The Whitefoot Band played for more than a half-dozen chapter exchanges as well as during formal rush. John Paul Buzard was named to the Bronze Tablet, and Paul L. Fischl and Mark T. Wedell were named to Sachem, the junior men’s activities honorary. The chapter house was fitted with new gutters, a new water heater, and it had been painted.

The chapter celebrated its 75th anniversary on November 11 and 12, 1977. The celebration began with a Friday night open house, with alumni swapping stories and singing Sigma Nu songs. On Saturday morning a brunch was served in the house and a house corporation meeting was held. A banquet took place Saturday evening at the Levis Faculty Center on campus. Sigma Nu Executive Secretary Maurice Littlefield used the occasion to honor several Gamma Mu alumni including Benjamin Nelson, from the class of 1910 who was possibly Sigma Nu’s oldest living member. Other members honored were Robert Estergard, president of the Gamma Mu house corporation for more than 30 years; and chapter adviser William A. Ferguson. Lieutenant Commander John Paul Buzard

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339 The Delta of Sigma Nu, Summer 1976, p. 23.
340 The Delta of Sigma Nu, Summer 1976, p. 23.
341 The Delta of Sigma Nu, Fall 1976, p. 27.
342 The Delta of Sigma Nu, Spring 1996, p. 12. Buzard was Sigma Nu’s Talent of the Year and the recipient of a scholarship during 1976-78. Responding to the 1993 Foundation Annual Fund, Buzard wrote, “I want you to know how I greatly value my undergraduate experience at Gamma Mu and how profoundly grateful I am for the Sigma Nu Educational Foundation’s support of my music school study during 1976-78….Without the Sigma Nu financial support at that time, I doubt I would either be where I am now, or be successful at incorporating music into a business career.” The article continued, “He was a Dean's List student, and house manager, chaplain and lieutenant commander. He received a B.S. with University Honors in radio-television journalism in 1976. That fall, however, realizing how much he missed the organ, he began a second bachelor’s program in organ performance. This time the University granted tuition and fee waivers in return for taking care of its practice organs, and the Sigma Nu Educational Foundation bestowed two
presented the chapter with a new bible and sword. Souvenir plates were specially made and were given to each alumnus present. After the banquet, some men returned to the chapter house for an impromptu party and sing-along.343

During the spring of 1978, the chapter was the campus representative for the Knights of Columbus annual candy sale. The chapter bragged that “all but one of the chapter’s eight graduating seniors have been admitted to graduate schools. Two were tapped to membership in Phi Beta Kappa and three to Phi Eta Sigma. The three new members of Phi Eta Sigma bring the chapter’s total to 12 in the prestigious honorary.”344

In 1982, in the eight decades since the founding of Gamma Mu, 1,350 men had been initiated. The chapter reported on two outstanding achievements. Gamma Mu won the Orange Division Football Championship and the chapter rose from the rank of 17th of 51 fraternities to 7th place. The chapter GPA was 3.97/5.345 Members singled out for mention in a Summer 1983 *Delta* included Steven Cox who earned a 4.8/5.346

The 1984 Duffers’ Open, the annual alumni golf outing, had an extra special event attached to it - a roast of retiring Chapter Adviser, Dr. William A. “Fergy” Ferguson. It celebrated his 36 years as chapter adviser (plus a few more as a scholarship resident adviser during graduate school). Jim Dolan was the Roastmaster. Other “roasters” were Gamma Mu alumni Bob Buck, J.D. Krebs, Bill Kyper, Jerry Reagan, Bill Ferguson, Jr., and Sigma Nu Executive Director Maurice Littlefield. Ferguson was initiated into the Beta Gamma Chapter at Missouri Valley State College. He also served as its Eminent Commander. During graduate school, he answered the call to serve in the one-year grants for music study. During this time, John-Paul and his Gamma Mu brothers wrote a Vigil service, held at a campus church, for each candidate the night before initiation. Included were original organ compositions as well as Collects and prayers for Christian and Jewish candidates, sung in traditional plainsong chant. At this time also the Gamma Mu House Corporation elected him vice president, their first undergraduate officer.” In 1985, his business was incorporated his business as John-Paul Buzard, Organ Craftsmen, Inc.

343 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, Fall 1977, p. 30.
344 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, Summer 1978, p. 28.
Armed Forces during World War II. He was a member of the U.S. Army’s 101st Airborne Division where he rose to the rank of major. He returned to the University of Illinois after the war and finished his Ph.D. He then became a member of the faculty. Ferguson’s son William Ira was a Beta Gamma initiate and son James was a 1979 Gamma Mu initiate. At the roast, Ferguson was given a Canon VCR and video recorder with battery pack. It was used to record the Duffers’ Open and Roast. It was said of Ferguson, “During his long tenure as chapter adviser, Ferguson witnessed a wide variation in the chapter’s make-up and remained a common link between generations. According to the Alumni Contact Officer Mark Morrison, ‘His many years of service and loyalty to Gamma Mu will never be forgotten’.”

Three other Sigma Nus were honored during the Duffers’ Open with “Alumnus of the Year” plaques. They were presented to John Loss (1982), Frank Thorne (Jr.) (1983), and Wilfred Landreth (1984). In November 1984, the chapter also congratulated former housemother Mary E. Barnhill on her 90th birthday. She spent 17 years at 1009 West Pennsylvania.

Charles “Chic” Sale was named to the Sigma Nu Hall of Fame in 1986. Sale had been pledged by Gamma Mu in 1906 and was initiated into the chapter in 1927 by an act of the High Council. Early in his life, the Gamma Mus gave him “the nickname ‘Chic’ when he entertained them at the Urbana chapter home. Chic left college to become America’s best-loved character actor and comedian on stage and screen, but he frequently visited Sigma Nus whenever he could. Among his friends was Gamma Lambda (Wisconsin) alumnus Nick Grinde, who became his publicity man and later a renowned movie director. Sale was an instant success in the film *The Star Witness* and his popularity grew with the sales of his humorous book, *The Specialist.*

348 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, Winter 1985, p. 37
349 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, Fall 1986, p. 12. For more information on Sale, see these *Deltas*: May 1929, p. 658; May 1930, p. 730; October 1930, page 13; December 1936, p. 184; March 1937, p. 374.
A scholarship award was established in honor of former Chapter Adviser William A. Ferguson. During the fall of 1986, the first two winners were seniors Christopher L. Gleason and James D. Sandfort. Gleason was a Dean’s List student with a 4.97 GPA; he was a member of Golden Key, Alpha Lambda Delta, Phi Eta Sigma and Alpha Epsilon Delta honorary societies and was awarded the Arthur T. Sloan Prize and the Mothers’ Association Book Award. Sandfort, with a 4.93 GPA, was a member of Phi Kappa Phi honorary. He also received the Mothers’ Association, Who’s Who, and an Accounting Department scholarship. He served the chapter as Rush Chairman and Treasurer.350

The report in the Summer 1987 Delta announced the chapter's 85th anniversary. The chapter was more than 65 men strong and they were busy. Among the philanthropies in which the chapter participated were a softball tournament with the Pi Beta Phi chapter and a blood drive with the Gamma Phi Betas. It was said to be the most successful blood drive ever put together by Greek organizations in Champaign County. Bob Viering won the Alumnus of the Year award.351

Jeff Jenkins spent the summer of 1987 as an intern at Sigma Nu’s Headquarters. Jenkins, an economics major, also served the chapter as House Manager, Kitchen Manager, Risk Reduction Officer, Homecoming Chairman and “Danceday” Chairman.352 He received the 1986-87 Brother of the Year Award.353

In the Spring 1988 Delta, the chapter boasted about these activities, “Other awards included Activities of the Year, Mike Johnston; Athlete of the Year, Todd Sheridan; and Scholars of the Year, Pat Heppe and Chris Gleason….The new White Rose Queen is Terri Derma of Delta Gamma. Thanks go to last year’s Queen, Meg Gorman of Phi Mu….Six brothers represent the chapter in Illini varsity sports. The football team includes Mark McGowan, offensive guard, and Jerry Lindley,

350 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, Winter 1987, p. 43.
352 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, Fall 1987, p. 31.
353 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, Spring 1988, p. 11.
head manager. Rich Capparelli is a pitcher on the baseball team, and Tom Prince plays golf for the university. Todd Sheridan and Greg Gleason are on the skeet shooting team.\textsuperscript{354}

During the Fall of 1988, the chapter, along with Delta Delta Delta, hosted a blood drive. The Gamma Mus sponsored a coed flag football tournament. At the 1989 spring InterFraternity Council Awards program, the chapter received the first place award for sports achievement and a fourth place award for membership development.\textsuperscript{355} There were more than 70 men listed as members under the chapter photo in the 1988 \textit{Illio} yearbook.\textsuperscript{356}

During the 1989-90 year, the chapter competed in three intramural softball teams, one a coed team with Kappa Delta. With the women of Chi Omega, the chapter fielded two broomball teams. The men took third place overall in the Delta Gamma Anchor Splash. During the spring 1990 semester, the chapter had exchanges with the women of Delta Zeta, Delta Delta Delta and Alpha Epsilon Phi. At the White Rose Formal, Will Landreth was crowned Brother of the Year.\textsuperscript{357} The annual Snakes in the Sand Party was “the highlight of our social calendar.”\textsuperscript{358}

Dave Norm Hassman was Gamma Mu’s 1,500th initiate. There were plans to celebrate this milestone. Unfortunately, the festivities had to be cancelled because of a meningitis outbreak on campus. The chapter apologized to Regent Jim Cherry and the 350 other Sigma Nus who had planned to attend. The chapter won first prize in a competition among the fraternities and sororities sponsored by the Illinois Power Company. Gamma Mu cut its power consumption by 28.2\% during a 3-month period as compared to the same period a year earlier.\textsuperscript{359}

Homecoming 1991 “was the most successful in years and saw the return of many alumni. With a newly elected, enthusiastic housing corporation, we are reactivating our alumni chapter to help

\begin{footnotesize}
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\item[354] The Delta of Sigma Nu, Spring 1988, p. 11.
\item[355] The Delta of Sigma Nu, Summer 1989, p. 15.
\item[356] Illio, 1988.
\item[357] The Delta of Sigma Nu, Spring 1990, p. 27.
\item[358] The Delta of Sigma Nu, Fall 1991, p. 40.
\item[359] The Delta of Sigma Nu, Fall 1991, p. 40.
\end{enumerate}
\end{footnotesize}
spur alumni involvement. We have also created a Mom and Dad’s association with the help of Mrs. and Mr. Newbrough, and would like to thank them for their help.”360 Athletically, the chapter was in fine form, “We took 1st place in football thanks to the dedication of Matt Duda, Tom Iskalis and many others. Allan Koivo and other dedicated brothers achieved 1st place in basketball. We took 1st place in volleyball and broomball, and 4th place in flag football.”361 In the 5th annual Sig Ep File Nite both of Gamma Mu’s fighters made it to the finals of their weight class, but lost in split decisions.362

The two-day Snakes in the Sand party took place in April 1992. On June 13, 1992, a Sigma Nu Day at the Races was held at the Arlington Race Track. Approximately 100 Gamma Mu alumni and collegians attended.363

In the spring of 1993, the Interfraternity Council adopted a new rushing system. Formal fraternity rush was abandoned “and it has shaken up the Greek community. Consequently, we suffered a bit in the spring rush but plans are underway for a great fall rush which includes a volleyball tournament for incoming freshmen.”364 The 1993 Snakes in the Sand party was postponed until fall 1993 and it may not have taken place that year. The Gamma Mu House Corporation and Parents’ Association “made several improvements to the house including a brick sign in front of the house, new carpeting on all floors, and new furniture in the main rooms.”365 Gamma Mu, along with Alpha Chi Omega, also won Greek Week honors, placing in the top three in all events, including lip sync, volleyball and Olympic games.366

361 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, Fall 1992, p. 41.
363 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, Fall 1992, p. 41; Summer/Fall 1993, p. xi.
364 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, Summer/Fall 1993, p. xi.
365 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, Summer/Fall 1993, p. xi.
366 *The Delta of Sigma Nu*, Winter 1994, p. 36.
The fall 1993 semester saw “the initiation of 22 candidates into our candidate program. This was the 2nd largest class on campus, and we already have 10 candidates signed for spring.” The chapter made it into the volleyball, football, hockey, softball and soccer intramural championships; the men won the competitions in hockey, volleyball and football. The chapter’s GPA for the Fall 1993 semester was 3.85/5. Dave Norm Hassman achieved a 5.0.

On November 20, 1993, Mark Belgrad, initiate number 15, was killed by a drunken driver in a car accident. An Eagle Scout, Belgrad was initiated in spring 1993. He was an aspiring poet and English teacher. Chapter alumni relations officer Amery Schmiesser said of Belgrad, “Mark showed concern for the well being of the people around him...He was always there to help a fellow brother and to improve the chapter. Mark truly believed in the life of love, walked in the way of honor and served in the light of truth.” The chapter honored his memory by having a brick placed in the Pathway of Honor at the Ethical Leadership Center in Lexington, Virginia, at Sigma Nu’s Headquarters.

Sometime during the early 1990s, the chapter established a Sigma Nu Weight Room Club. It may have been located in one of the former sleeping dormitories. Membership fees in the club were used to purchase equipment. It was reported in the Spring 1994 Delta, that the weight room was “bigger than ever, has another bench press, more weights, and a leg extension machine.”

The spring 1994 semester included a winter barn dance, a “Carnival” exchange with Alpha Epsilon Phi, and the White Rose Formal. An exchange with Gamma Phi Beta took place on the Friday night of the Snakes in the Sand party and it was followed the next night by a date party.

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367 The Delta of Sigma Nu, Winter 1994, p. 36.
368 The Delta of Sigma Nu, Spring 1994, p. 5.
369 The Delta of Sigma Nu, Spring 1994, p. 5.
370 The Delta of Sigma Nu, Winter 1994, p. 36.
371 The Delta of Sigma Nu, Fall 1994, p. 32.
372 The Delta of Sigma Nu, Fall 1994, p. 32.
373 The Delta of Sigma Nu, Spring 1994, p. 5.
blood drive with Sigma Kappa was planned along with guest speakers on alcohol abuse and date rape.\footnote{The Delta of Sigma Nu, Spring 1994, p. 5.} It was also reported that damaged ceilings were repaired and repainted along with the repainting of the hallways and kitchen. New carpeting was installed in the hallways and two front rooms. The wood trim on the outside of the house was stripped and repainted. New doors, both inside and outside were installed.\footnote{The Delta of Sigma Nu, Spring 1994, p. 5.} Dave Osborn, Matt Warner, Dean Lyon, Chris Kitchen and Ron Petrinos each achieved a perfect 5.0 GPA.\footnote{The Delta of Sigma Nu, Fall 1994, p. 39.}

Under the chapter’s picture in the 1994 Illio yearbook, there were the names of 61 men. There is no mention of the chapter in the 1996, 1997, 1999, 2002, 2003, 2005, and 2007 yearbooks which are available on line.

The report in the Fall 1994 Delta was the last one until the Winter 1997 issue. The Office of the Dean of Students at the University of Illinois noted that there was a record of risk management issues in 1995. The chapter was sanctioned by the Interfraternity Council Judicial Board. The chapter may have been disciplined by Sigma Nu as well. The membership graph kept by Office has no Sigma Nu data for the fall 1995 and spring 1996 semesters.\footnote{Personal Correspondence, Office of the Dean of Students, May 28, 2014.}

An e-mail written by Jeff Alcantar to Darrough Diamond offered this insight, “In a nutshell, here is what happened. Sometime in the mid 1990s, several incidents occurred that caused National to close down the chapter. I heard two stories leading to the closure. The actives from the mid 90s say National threw out the 40 actives dubbed Sigma Nu’s ‘Black Knights.’ National says they asked the Executive Board to resign and everyone followed. It’s hard to say which is true nor does it matter at this point. So, the chapter laid inactive slowly decaying till Fall of 1997. National made the effort to recolonize by handing out flyers across campus. They had approximately 20 pledges enlist to recolonize, but as I was told by the first Eminent Commander T. Herbes National didn’t live up...
to their arrangement. National promised to make numerous house repairs and Knight the 20 pledges. In groups, the pledge numbers began to drop. 5 pledges left for Delta Phi alone and a few others gave up and left the Greek system. Finally, the Bradley University Sigma Nu chapter agreed to perform the ritual of Knighting the remaining 12 pledges in late spring of 1998.”

An e-mail from Dan Peterson, initiate 1552, to Ted Brannon, dated April 29, 2004, regarding an entry in a 2004 *Gamma Mu News*, also offers some information about the 1990s. Peterson wrote, “When national came in and pulled the rug from us, unfairly in our opinion, we were placed on ‘Matriculate Alumni Status.’ When we graduated we were alumni….whole ‘black night’ and ‘dark days’ garbage uncalled for...house was falling apart for years….it’s an old house...yet our requests to national and the housing commission...for funding for structural improvement of the house went ignored. The brick walkway that was supposed to connect the front door to the patio was a project we started, it went nearly entirely ignored by alumni - that project was designed to produce funds to improve the house.” He added information that there was “never a grand piano” during his years in the chapter and he asked for a retraction in a future issue of the *Gamma Mu News*.

It the Winter 1997 issue of *The Delta* it was stated that “In fall 1996, Sigma Nu returned to the University of Illinois with the start of the Gamma Mu colony. Recruitment of quality men is underway for this substance-free colony and will continue through the spring semester. House renovations will begin soon to restore our home to its original splendor. Social and philanthropic events are being planned for the bright future we envision for Sigma Nu at the University of Illinois.

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378 Personal Correspondence, Jeffrey Alcantar, Sigma Nu - Gamma Mu Collection, Courtesy of the University of Illinois Archives.
379 Personal Correspondence, Dan Peterson, April 29, 2004, Sigma Nu - Gamma Mu Collection, Courtesy of the University of Illinois Archives.
380 The Spring 2004 issue of the *Gamma Mu News* informed the readers that the “Green Room” was again green and it “Once housed a piano, which disappeared during the chapter’s dark days of the 1990s.”
We are all looking forward to the challenging and rewarding work that is required to become a Sigma Nu chapter.\textsuperscript{381}

The Duffer’s Open was still a part of Gamma Mu alumni life. The 1999 Duffer’s Open took place at the Lost Nation Golf Club in Dixon, Illinois. Bob Peacock was the host. It must have been evident to the alumni at the event that the chapter was clearly in trouble.

In 1998, Sigma Nu acquired the Gamma Mu chapter house “in an effort to preserve it for the Gamma Mu chapter. The property was later acquired by Fifth Point Properties after the company was formed by the Fraternity for the purpose of helping chapters with real estate issues.”\textsuperscript{382}

Sigma Nu Executive Director, Brad Beacham arrived in town on February 2, 2002. He met with a group of alumni to discuss the Gamma Mu situation. A picture of the meeting included Beacham, David Glassman (Risk Chairman), Richard Pedersen (Alum), Bob Solomon (Alum), Donald K. Densborn (Legal Counsel), Bob Peacock (Alum), and Jeff Alcantar (Chapter Adviser-Alum). According to an archived webpage, they met to “decide the fate of the Gamma Mu Chapter” and “They all agreed to work together in assuring the survival of the chapter.”\textsuperscript{383}

In a letter dated April 9, 2002, Beacham wrote the Gamma Mu alumni, “As we discussed, the General Fraternity is not currently in the business of owning and managing housing, except in rare examples that have arisen out of necessity. Gamma Mu is the most recent example of such a fraternal necessity. Rather than see such a historic Sigma Nu home lost in a tax sale, the General Fraternity, at the request of Bennett Braun, made arrangements to preserve, at least in the near term, the property for the Fraternity.” Beacham echoed the concerns of the Fraternity governing council. They were concerned about the small size of the chapter, “Any effort for the chapter home, joint or otherwise, will require a healthy, fully functional undergraduate chapter of such size to support the

\textsuperscript{381} The Delta of Sigma Nu, Winter 1997, p. 34.  
\textsuperscript{382} Sigma Nu - Gamma Mu Collection, Courtesy of the University of Illinois Archives.  
\textsuperscript{383} Archived web-page, Sigma Nu - Gamma Mu Collection, Courtesy of the University of Illinois Archives.
chapter home. It is simply futile to try to support a chapter home of the size and scope of this one with a chapter fewer than 50 men.” They recognized that the Gamma Mu alumni did not have a nest egg of cash to purchase the home. He offered a proposal for a joint undertaking including a feasibility study for a capital campaign.384

According to the statistics kept by the Office of the Dean of Students, Gamma Mu had nine members for the fall of 1996 while the IFC average was 55. From spring 1997 until spring 2002, the chapter never had more than 19 members; the IFC average was 69.385

During those nearly two decades of rebuilding, the chapter saw some milestones. Gamma Mu turned 100 years old in 2002. The Fall 2002 Gamma Mu News announced the goal, 100 for 100, meaning more than 100 alumni to celebrate the chapter’s centennial on October 26, 2002.386 A Centennial celebration indeed took place and the returning alumni were able to see firsthand how dire the situation had become. Former Chapter Adviser Ferguson attended the festivities. He died on August 14, 2004.387

In 2003, Jeff Alcantar, a Chicagoland resident who spent many weekends working on the house and advising the men by phone and email, won Sigma Nu’s Adviser of the Year Award.

From fall 2002 until spring 2008, the highest chapter total was 29. The chapter’s averaged 30 members from fall 2008 until spring 2012. The highest total during that time was 44. The IFC average during the same time period was about 70.388

The minutes of the July 19, 2007, Urbana Plan Commission, regular meeting contained information about Plan Case No. 2045-M-07: A request by Sterling Management, LLC to rezone the Sigma Nu fraternity house at 1009 West Pennsylvania Avenue from R-7, University Residential

384 Personal Correspondence, Brad Beacham, April 9, 2002. Sigma Nu - Gamma Mu Collection, Courtesy of the University of Illinois Archives.
385 Personal Correspondence, Office of the Dean of Students, May 28, 2014.
386 Gamma Mu News, Fall 2002, Sigma Nu - Gamma Mu Collection, Courtesy of the University of Illinois Archives.
387 Gamma Mu News, Fall 2004, Sigma Nu - Gamma Mu Collection, Courtesy of the University of Illinois Archives.
388 Personal Correspondence, Office of the Dean of Students, May 28, 2014.
Zoning District, to B-3U, General Business-University Zoning District. This request for a zoning change stemmed from an unsolicited offer which Fifth Point Properties had received. The bid was contingent upon being able to obtain the change in zoning. It was said that the developer had plans to tear down the Gamma Mu home and put up student apartments if the zoning change was made. At that time, Fifth Point offered the Gamma Mu alumni the opportunity to match the developer’s offer and repurchase the chapter house. Michael Ritchie led the effort to raise the funds in a very short time span. When the zoning request was rejected, the alumni were given more time to come up with the funding. That they did, and in a press release dated February 28, 2008, it was announced that “the University of Illinois alumni of Sigma Nu Fraternity (Gamma Mu Chapter) acquired the historic Sigma Nu Chapter House, located at 1009 W. Pennsylvania Avenue, Urbana, from Fifth Point Properties, LLC, a subsidiary of Sigma Nu acquired the property in 1998 in an effort to preserve it for the Gamma Mu chapter. The property was later acquired by Fifth Point Properties after the company was formed by the Fraternity for the purpose of helping chapters with real estate issues.” The Chapter House is now owned by the local Gamma Mu Housing Corporation with local businessman Craig Hays as President.

In 2009, the Alumni Board set up a Pursuit of Excellence Scholarship spearheaded by Michael Ritchie and David von Nirschl. The purpose of the $2,500 scholarship for an entering freshman is to draw “new students to learn more about Sigma Nu and give the chapter a leg up on meeting them early in the school year.”

For better than a decade, 1009 West Pennsylvania was operating more like a rooming house than a fraternity. Educating members about living the Sigma Nu ideal became a priority. The Delta once again had mention of the chapter’s activities, “Gamma Mu Chapter hosted a toy drive last

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390 Sigma Nu - Gamma Mu Collection, Courtesy of the University of Illinois Archives.
391 Sigma Nu - Gamma Mu Collection, Courtesy of the University of Illinois Archives.
November (2009) with the Champaign County Toys for Tots Foundation (Marine Corps Reserve). Incorporating friendly competition from the sororities, the chapter was able to donate scores of toys to local children.\(^{392}\) In December, 2010, the chapter again participated in the annual Toys for Tots campaign, and was the most successful drop off site in Champaign.\(^{393}\)

The Winter 2011 *Gamma Mu News* gave news about the Facility Assessment which was completed by Tom Hurlbutt. Fire suppression and a sprinkler system and upgrade of fire alarms and monitors was an immediate need due to state legislation. Hurlbutt stated, “Whoever built the Sigma Nu House built right in the first place. This house is a tank.”\(^{394}\)

In 2013, Gamma Mu alumnus Robert Hart won the House Director of the Year award at the Greek Oscar ceremony. Before he took over as House Director in late 2011, “the physical state of the house was in extremely poor condition. As soon as he and two other alumni took on the task of running the house corporation, he immediately became a daily presence within the house. He is a recently retired electrician who has spent 8 hours a day, 5-6 days a week since January 2012 working to modernize the house and make it a place people have a deep desire to live in. Over the course of the past year and a half, he has acted as foreman, as well as primary laborer, to ensure the quick, effective installation of the chapter house’s new fire protection system, restoration of the public areas of the first floor, rewiring of the entire house, new ceilings in both the second and third floor hallways, and other general repair. His tireless work has shown the brothers, and now the Greek community as a whole through this award, that being a brother of Sigma Nu does not end upon graduation. In fact, as Bob has shown to all of the brothers of Gamma Mu, the pursuit of excellence is a lifelong commitment that should never falter.”

\(^{392}\) *Gamma Mu News*, Winter 2011.
\(^{393}\) *Gamma Mu News*, Winter 2010.
\(^{394}\) *Gamma Mu News*, Winter 2011. A.W. Stoolman was the general contractor.
There were 52 members during the fall of 2012 and 54 for the spring of 2013. In the fall of 2013, when the IFC chapter average was 76.5, the chapter was at 70 members.\textsuperscript{395} For five years, from 2010-14, the chapter has won the 25\% Increase In Manpower Award from Sigma Nu Fraternity. In 2014, Gamma Mu was one of only five fraternities to be rated as “Exceptional” by the Illini Greek Initiative.

Chris Marr, who served as Eminent Commander of the chapter was inducted as an Alpha Affiliate. The Alpha Affiliate award “salutes those rare and uncommon Knights who exemplify eminence in their daily lives as expressed by the Creed of Sigma Nu; who demonstrate a genuine commitment to the ideals of the Legion of Honor; and whose pattern of performance on behalf of their chapter and the General Fraternity are a worthy model for others to follow.” Marr was the third Alpha initiate from Gamma Mu; the other two were initiated in the 1960s. Marr was also named Greek Man of the Year at Illinois in 2014.\textsuperscript{396}

\textsuperscript{395} Personal Correspondence, Office of the Dean of Students, May 28, 2014.
\textsuperscript{396} https://www.facebook.com/illinoisfsa/photos/a.304426132543.145478.18058737543/10152263564407544/?type=1