Red Door **Journal**

BARTON COLLEGE



33 BROTHERS STRONG

And still growing

A PRESIDENTIAL HONOR

NC Iota earns the 2025–26 President's Trophy

ONE FOR THE BOOKS

Bobby Bennett marks 55 years as SigEp's longest-serving Chapter Counselor

RECONNECTING NC IOTA

Connecting brothers beyond 606 Nash St.

NC IOTA | FALL 2026

SigEp

Red Door Journal

BARTON COLLEGE

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In this issue

4 A Brotherhood on the Rise
Reflection on the active chapter during Spring and Fall semesters of 2026

6 'One for the Books'
Bobby Bennett concludes 55 years of service as NC Iota's Chapter Counselor

12 CLA
Active brothers and AVC President travel to Atlanta, Ga., for leadership workshops

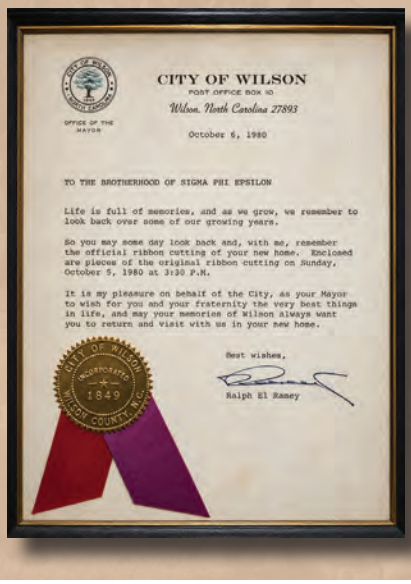
22 Founders Day
NC Iota alumni return to Barton for Greek Show and Founders Day celebrations

27 Homecoming 2026
SigEp celebrates 125 years of Barton College with a new Homecoming King



On the cover

NC Iota brothers following the initiation of the Fall 2026 new member class.


CITY OF WILSON
POST OFFICE BOX 10
Wilson, North Carolina 27893
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
October 6, 1980

TO THE BROTHERHOOD OF SIGMA PHI EPSILON

Life is full of memories, and as we grow, we remember to look back over some of our growing years.

So you may some day look back and, with me, remember the official ribbon cutting of your new home. Enclosed are pieces of the original ribbon cutting on Sunday, October 5, 1980 at 3:30 P.M.

It is my pleasure on behalf of the City, as your Mayor to wish for you and your fraternity the very best things in life, and may your memories of Wilson always want you to return and visit with us in your new home.

Best wishes,

Ralph El Ramey

CITY OF WILSON INCORPORATED 1849 WILSON COUNTY, N.C.

PHOTO BY JAKSA GABRIC

FROM THE ARCHIVES

On October 5, 1980, NC Iota celebrated the opening of its new chapter house after moving from 701 Nash Street, which had fallen into disrepair. This letter from Wilson Mayor Ralph El-Ramey commemorates the ribbon cutting. More than 45 years later, the house at 606 Nash Street remains home to generations of NC Iota brothers.

NC Iota Today



Dear Brothers, Alumni, and Friends of the Chapter,

My name is Tucker Fleming, and I am the president of the NC Iota Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon here at Barton College. I began my tenure as President in Spring 2025 and was reelected in Spring 2026; it has been an honor to have the opportunity to serve the chapter and the brothers who have made it a beautiful place we can call home.

When I came to Barton, I had no interest in joining Greek Life. I had always heard stories and seen movies describing fraternities as something that I was just not open to. Not long into college, however, I found myself in my dorm every day after classes, since I do not play sports. I decided I wanted more and decided to see what Rush week was all about. Throughout Rush week, I was very indecisive until several older SigEp alumni spoke to me, and it really put into perspective the kind of brotherhood we have.

With that being said, I found happiness in those I surrounded myself with. I started to cling closely to individuals with like-minded values. The more time I spent around them, the more I began to realize that the fraternity experience was much different from what I had expected coming into college. I received my bid in the Fall semester of the 2023-2024 school year and quickly found myself being put into a position of responsibility. Since then, SigEp has become an important part of my college experience and has given me opportunities to grow both as an individual and as a leader.

SigEp finds success in our growth and brotherhood. When I joined SigEp, my class brought the chapter to 10 active members. Currently, we now stand at **33 active members** and are still growing! All of our men bring different strengths to the table, and that is truly what makes us thrive. With that being said, SigEps find success in our personal lives via academics, athletics, and personal accomplishments. Each of these achievements reflects the different strengths that our brothers bring to NC Iota and the values that we continue to strive toward as a chapter.

Our chapter finds our success as a whole. Currently, we are 11-time back-to-back winners in Greek Show here at Barton (looking to make it 12). SigEp also won the **Greek Games**! Lastly, the young men I serve beside brought home **Greek Man of the Year** and **The President's Trophy**! The last time a fraternity had The President's Trophy was 1998. These accomplishments are something we take pride in as a chapter and something we hope to continue building upon in the years ahead.

As President, I look forward to seeing what our chapter is able to accomplish and continuing to strengthen the relationships between our brothers, alumni, and the Barton College community. I hope this journal can be another way for our alumni and friends to stay connected with NC Iota and see what we have to offer here at SigEp!

If you would like to speak to me about myself, the chapter, or anything else, please feel free to email me at thfleming@bulldogs.barton.edu

In Virtue, Diligence, and Brotherly Love,

Tucker H. Fleming
CHAPTER PRESIDENT | Sigma Phi Epsilon NC Iota

A Brotherhood on the Rise

NC Iota entered 2026 with momentum, and through a successful spring semester and one of the chapter's strongest fall recruitment classes in recent years, the brotherhood has continued to grow.

The spring semester brought success across Barton's Greek community, in the classroom and within the chapter itself. NC Iota swept all five physical competitions during Greek Week before capturing its 11th consecutive Greek Show title later in the semester. Brother **Chase Anderson** was also recognized as Barton's ***Greek Man of the Year*** for his service, academic achievement and involvement across campus.

That success extended into the classroom.

Braylon Canales earned a place on the ***President's List***, while Tucker Fleming, Corbett Williams, Hayden Perryman, Canales and Anderson were named to the ***Dean's List***. With brothers balancing academics alongside athletics, fraternity responsibilities and involvement across campus, the recognitions reflected the chapter's continued commitment to success beyond 606 West Nash Street.

The semester also marked one of the most significant leadership transitions in NC Iota's history. After 55 years of service, ***Bobby Bennett*** stepped down as Chapter Counselor, with **B.P. Cox** taking over the position and beginning a new chapter in a role that had been held by Bobby for more than half a century.

By the end of the spring semester, NC Iota stood at 19 active brothers and continued the steady growth the chapter has experienced in recent years.

BUILDING ON THE MOMENTUM

That progress accelerated when brothers returned to Barton for the fall semester.

Fall Rush brought strong attendance throughout the week and ultimately added 14 new members to the brotherhood, putting NC Iota within reach of one of the largest active memberships in its history.

The successful recruitment effort was supported not only by the active chapter, but by alumni who returned to 606 West Nash Street throughout the week. Alumni spoke with potential new members, shared their experiences in Sigma Phi Epsilon and helped introduce another generation of Barton students to the brotherhood that had shaped their own college years.

Among those returning were ***Steve Moore '82*** and ***Gary Holtzman '81***, who contributed to Rush Week by preparing their famous BBQ chicken for Smokers Night, the third evening of recruitment. Their involvement was one example of the support alumni provided throughout the week as the chapter welcomed prospective members into the house.

The addition of the fall class

2025/26 Executive Board



CHAPTER COUNSELOR

B.P. Cox



PRESIDENT

Tucker Fleming



VICE PRESIDENT
PROGRAMMING

Braylon Canales



VICE PRESIDENT
FINANCES

Miguel Rodriguez-Perez

Save the date

Wine & Cheese....Dec. 4, 2026

CLA.....Jan. 22-24, 2027

Greek Show.....April 16, 2027

Founders Day...April 16-18, 2027

End of Class.....May 6, 2027

Commencement....May 8, 2027

Heart Day.....TBA

Conclave.....July 21-25, 2027

To get in touch with NC Iota, please reach out to contacts below:

Active Chapter
nciota.communications@gmail.com

Alumni & AVC
nciota.communications@gmail.com

Stay connected. Keep your information up to date.

sigepnciota.org/connect



Brothers and alumni gather at 606 during Smokers Night as part of Fall Rush 2026. Alumni returned throughout Rush Week to support the chapter, share their SigEp experiences and help NC Iota welcome its newest generation of brothers.

represents more than another successful recruitment period. It continues a period of steady growth for NC Iota and brings with it a new generation of brothers who will eventually take on the responsibility of leading the chapter themselves.

With success in Greek life, recognition in the classroom, continued support from alumni and a growing brotherhood at 606 Nash Street, NC Iota enters the remainder of the 2026-27 academic year in one of its strongest positions in recent memory. As *Sigma Phi Epsilon* celebrates its **125th anniversary** in 2026, our chapter continues to build on that legacy, carrying the fraternity's traditions forward through a new generation of brothers.

The challenge now is to build on it.



VICE PRESIDENT
RECRUITMENT

Wyatt Rickard



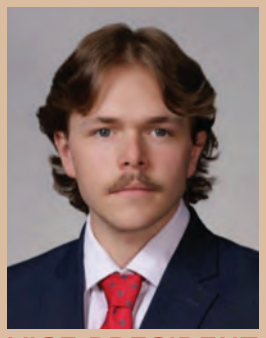
VICE PRESIDENT
MEMBER DEV

Cruz Nelms



VICE PRESIDENT
COMMUNICATIONS

Raymond Hardee



VICE PRESIDENT
LEARNING COMMUNITY

Sammy Watkins

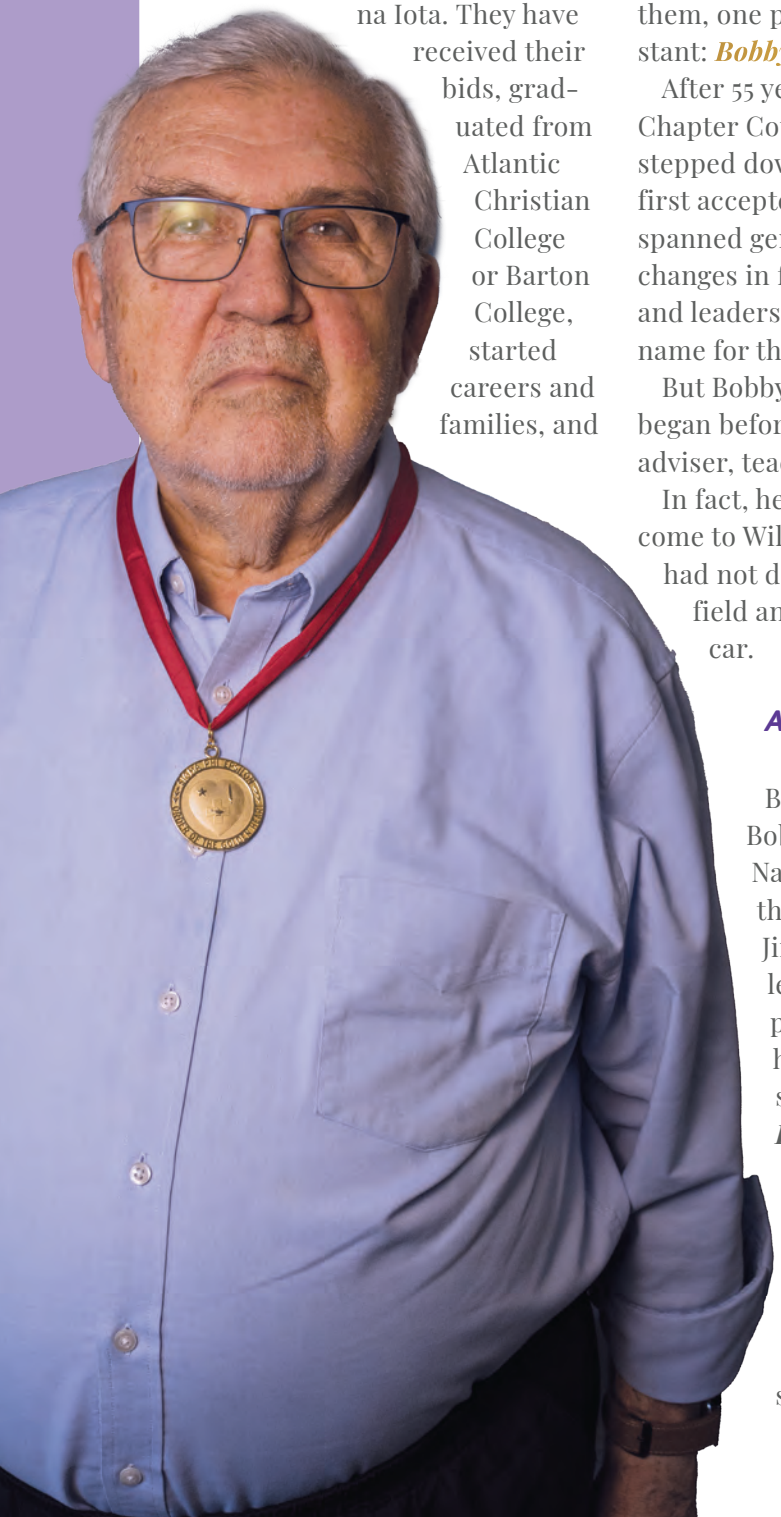


CHAPLAIN

Charles James

ONE FOR *THE BOOKS*

Bobby Bennett concludes 55 years of service as *North Carolina Iota's Chapter Counselor*



For more than half a century, generations of brothers have walked through the red doors of North Carolina Iota. They have received their bids, graduated from Atlantic Christian College or Barton College, started careers and families, and returned to 606 Nash Street as alumni.

Through those generations and all the changes that came with them, one person remained a constant: ***Bobby Gene Bennett***.

After 55 years of serving as Chapter Counselor, Bobby has stepped down from a position he first accepted in 1971. His tenure spanned generations of brothers, changes in fraternity traditions and leadership, and even a new name for the college itself.

But Bobby's story at NC Iota began before he was an alumnus, adviser, teacher or coach.

In fact, he might never have come to Wilson at all if his mother had not driven into a tobacco field and told him to get in the car.

A DECISION MADE FOR HIM

Born Sept. 29, 1944, Bobby grew up in rural Nash County with his three brothers, Tony, Jimmy and Mark. College was not necessarily part of the future he had imagined for himself. His mother, ***Betty Lewis Bennett***, had other ideas.

"My mom made my mind up," Bobby recalled. "She made her mind up that I was going to college somewhere."

Betty knew about Atlantic Christian College in nearby Wilson and decided that was where her son should go. Bobby's father, ***James Ashley Bennett***, was considerably less enthusiastic.

One day, while Bobby was working in a tobacco field, Betty drove her black Cadillac directly into the field and told him to wash his hands and get in the car.

They returned home, where she instructed him to shower and pack enough clothes for several days.

"We're going to Wilson," she told him.

Bobby suggested they should first discuss the idea with his father.

"No, we don't," he remembers his mother responding. "He ain't got nothing to do with it. All he's got to do is put his name on the check."



They arrived at Atlantic Christian with Betty determined to enroll her son. She walked into the administration office with her checkbook and asked what it would take for Bobby to attend.

Eventually, the college president came out of his office. Betty went inside to speak with him, emerged a short time later and wrote the check.

"And that was it," Bobby said. "I

was a student."

What began with an unexpected ride out of a Nash County tobacco field would shape nearly every part of the life that followed.

FINDING HIS PLACE

Bobby arrived at Atlantic Christian without a firm idea of what he wanted to study. He initially considered music, having grown up playing piano and organ at church, but instead followed a course of study that prepared him for a career in education. He graduated in 1967 with a Bachelor of Science degree.

Atlantic Christian also introduced him to two relationships that would define much of his life.

One was ***Sigma Phi Epsilon***.

The other was ***Sue Wilson***.

Sue was a fellow student and founding member of the Theta Omega Chapter of **Delta Zeta**, which grew from the local Omega Chi sorority.

She graduated a year ahead of Bobby and moved to Virginia Beach to teach sixth grade. After completing his degree, Bobby followed, finding a teaching position of his own.

On Dec. 30, 1967, Bobby and Sue married and began their careers together in Virginia Beach.



After approximately four years, health problems among their parents brought them back to North Carolina. They settled in Wilson, where they could help care for both families while continuing their careers.

They raised three sons — ***David***, ***Brian*** and ***Cameron***. Years later, Brian would follow his father into NC Iota, attending the college as Atlantic Christian became Barton College.

By then, Bobby's relationship with the fraternity had already taken an unexpected turn.



PHOTO BY JAKSA GABRIC

Bobby Bennett and his wife, Sue, pictured at NC Iota's 64th Founders Day at Daniel's Casual Fine Dining in 2021, where the chapter surprised Bobby with a celebration honoring his 50th anniversary as Chapter Counselor.

"I FELL OUT DEAD"

Bobby's path from NC Iota alumnus to Chapter Counselor began on the porch of the fraternity house.

Ed Cloyd, a longtime Atlantic Christian faculty member, coach and athletic administrator, was then advising the chapter and preparing to step away. One evening, he asked Bobby to come outside and asked whether he would consider working with the undergraduate chapter.

Bobby agreed, although he did not fully realize what was about to happen.

At a chapter meeting, Cloyd made the announcement.

"Bobby is going to start working with you guys as an adviser," Bobby remembers him telling the brothers.

"I fell out dead," Bobby recalled. "I didn't know that."

Nevertheless, in 1971, at 26 years old, Bobby became NC Iota's Chapter Counselor.

There was no grand plan for what would eventually become 55 years of service. Bobby began by establishing expectations for the chapter and learning how to balance fraternity traditions with the standards of Atlantic Christian College.

"If you want to be the best on the campus, you're going to have to follow certain rules and regulations," he remembers telling the brothers.

That philosophy went beyond rules. Bobby wanted the fraternity to become an organization the college could trust.

Over time, it did.

He worked with administrators and college presidents, and eventually, Bobby said, the college knew where to turn when it needed students willing to help.

"If they wanted a group to do something," he recalled, "call Bobby."

This unexpected request from Cloyd became a role Bobby would hold longer than anyone could have imagined that night on the porch.

IN THE CLASSROOM AND ON THE SIDELINES

At the same time Bobby was advising generations of SigEps, he was building a career devoted to another group of young people.

His years in education took him from Virginia Beach to school systems in Rocky Mount, Elm City and Wilson County. Later, he served as headmaster of Enfield Academy in Whitakers during the school's final years.

He also spent decades coaching, including softball and girls basketball at Beddingfield High School.

One of the defining moments of that career came during the winter of 1991-92.

After an uneven end to the regular season, Bobby's Lady Bruins found another gear in the postseason. They captured the N.C. High School Athletic Association Class 3-A East Sectional No. 2 championship and entered the Eastern Regional with a 20-8 record — the first regional appearance in the history of Beddingfield's girls basketball program.

Bobby credited the turnaround to work.

"We have worked the fool out of them in practice," he told The Wilson Daily Times. "We've told them that, if they want to win this thing, then let's go get it."

Beddingfield defeated Western Alamance 58-47 in the Eastern Regional semifinal, sending the Lady Bruins into the regional championship game.

After sophomore LaTonya Joyner came up with a key play, Bobby's pride in his player was obvious.

"Is she not a jewel?" he told the Daily Times. "This child has got ability I don't think she's tapped yet."

Beddingfield ultimately fell 84-74 to High Point Central, but the Lady Bruins had advanced farther than any girls basketball team in school history.

Bobby resigned from his girls basketball coaching duties after the season, ending an eight-year run as head coach.

Decades later, when asked to name his favorite memory from his teaching and coaching career, his thoughts returned to that postseason run — and to the students and supporters who traveled with the team as it advanced.

For Bobby, coaching was another form of teaching. The expectations he brought to the fraternity house — work hard, be accountable and recognize what you are capable of — followed him onto the sidelines.



MIKE GRIZZARD | WILSON TIMES ARCHIVE

Beddingfield varsity girls' basketball coach Bobby Bennett talks with his players during a break in a Nov. 18, 1986, scrimmage against Tarboro.*

A LASTING IMPACT

As Bobby's career in education continued, so did his role with SigEp.

He guided NC Iota through some of the most consequential changes in its history, including the chapter's move to 606 Nash Street in 1980.

Presidents graduated. New officers took their places. Classes of brothers arrived and moved on.

Bobby remained.

His work eventually extended beyond Wilson. As Sigma Phi Epsilon developed what became the *Balanced Man Program*, Bobby contributed materials designed to help chapters put the fraternity's approach to member development into practice.

At NC Iota, those materials became familiar as the Purple, Red and Yellow packets. Decades later, they remain part of the chapter's institutional memory.

In August 1993, Bobby was awarded the **Order of the Golden Heart** at Grand Chapter Conclave in Dallas, Texas, the fraternity's highest honor for alumni service. He was one of three brothers from different chapters recognized with the award that year.

The recognition came as a surprise to Bobby, who has remained modest about the distinction. While grateful for the honor, he has never measured his service through awards or recognition. For him, the greatest reward has always been watching the brothers, students and athletes he mentored grow and succeed.

His continued attendance at Grand Chapter Conclaves also earned him the ***Larkin Bailey/Babe Fly Loyalty***



THE COLLEGIATE | BARTON COLLEGE ARCHIVE

Bobby Bennett, second row, third from the left, with his NC Iota brothers during the 1966-67 academic year at Atlantic Christian College. Bobby graduated in 1967 and became the chapter counselor four years later.

Cup after his 15th Conclave.

But awards tell only part of the story.

Bobby's unusual longevity provided something few collegiate chapters ever have: continuity across generations.

A brother could graduate, build a career, raise a family and return to NC Iota years later to find Bobby still there.

He remembered the chapter before 606 Nash Street. He remembered Atlantic Christian before Barton College. He knew the traditions that survived, the ones that changed and, often, why they had existed in the first place.

For hundreds of brothers, Bobby was not simply a name on an adviser list.

He was there.

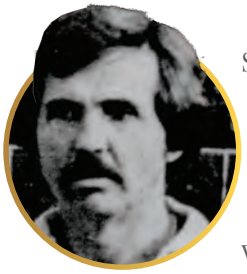
A FAMILY AND A BROTHERHOOD

Sigma Phi Epsilon became intertwined with the Bennett family.

Bobby and Sue's relationship began at Atlantic Christian, where both experienced Greek life from different sides of campus. Decades later, their son Brian became an NC Iota brother himself.

Throughout Bobby's years as Chapter Counselor, Sue remained alongside him as the fraternity became an enduring part of their family's life.

Those years also brought profound loss, including the death of their son Cameron. Through it all, Bobby's relationship with the chapter and the generations of young men he spent decades mentoring continued.



His commitment to others extended beyond SigEp. Music, the field he had once considered pursuing in college, remained part of his life through several Baptist churches, where he sang in the choir and played the organ.

That lifetime of service is now reflected in the ways others have chosen to preserve his name.

The chapter's Balanced Man Scholarship has been renamed the ***Bobby Gene Bennett Scholarship***. The $500 scholarship recognizes a male Barton College student who demonstrates academic achievement, leadership and a commitment to the principles of Sound Mind and Sound Body.

Barton has also renamed its annual Greek adviser recognition the ***Bobby Bennett Greek Advisor of the Year Award***.

For a man who never planned on attending Atlantic Christian until his mother arrived in a tobacco field, his name is now permanently connected to the institution she insisted he attend.



SIGEP HEADQUARTERS | FILE PHOTO

Bobby Bennett, pictured in the back row, attends the 54th Grand Chapter Conclave in Nashville, Tenn, where he joined the ceremony welcoming five additional brothers into the Order of the Golden Heart.



PHOTO BY JAKSA GABRIC

55 YEARS

There is no simple way to summarize 55 years.

When Bobby became Chapter Counselor in 1971, Atlantic Christian College was still nearly two decades away from becoming Barton College. NC Iota had not yet moved into the house generations of brothers now know as 606 Nash Street.

Most of the brothers Bobby would eventually advise had not been born.

Over the decades that followed, leadership changed. Traditions evolved. The college changed. Sigma Phi Epsilon changed.

Bobby remained the anchor of the chapter.

At NC Iota's 64th Founders Day in 2021, brothers gathered with Bobby and Sue to recognize his **50th** year as Chapter Counselor.

Five years later, they gathered again.

This time, it was to recognize **55 years**.

Asked to choose his favorite memory from more than half a century with Sigma Phi Epsilon, Bobby could not settle on one.

"Woo! I don't know," he said. "I had several of those."

Perhaps that is fitting.

Fifty-five years cannot easily be reduced to one meeting, one award, one Conclave or one generation of brothers.

As Bobby steps away, **B.P. Cox** will succeed



him as NC Iota's Chapter Counselor, beginning a new chapter in a position that has been associated with one man for more than half a century.

Bobby, however, is not leaving NC Iota behind.

His influence remains in the traditions he helped preserve, the programs he helped develop, the relationship between the chapter and Barton, the scholarship that now bears his name and, most importantly, in generations of brothers who passed through NC Iota while he stood beside them.

It is there every time someone walks through the red doors at 606 Nash Street.

There is no award, title or recognition capable of fully measuring what 55 years of dedication has meant to NC Iota.

For every meeting attended, every lesson taught, every difficult conversation, every celebration shared, every chapter officer guided and every brother whose life you helped shape, North Carolina Iota offers its deepest gratitude.

It has been our privilege to call you our Chapter Counselor, our mentor and, above all, our brother.

HFF, Bobby!

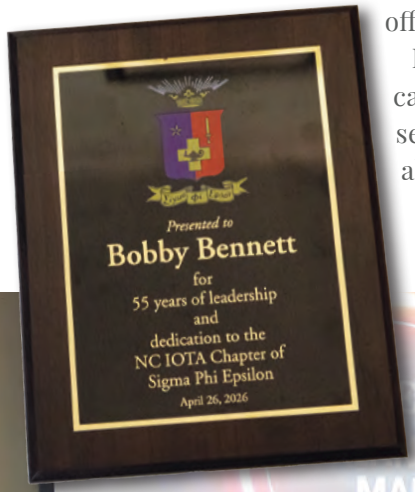






PHOTO BY JAKSA GABRIC

Bobby Bennett, at the podium, gives a speech during the Balanced Man Scholarship banquet in 2021.

**Editor's note: The original newspaper scan was upscaled using AI for reproduction in this magazine.*

Leading the Way

Nine members of NC Iota's leadership traveled to Atlanta in February for Sigma Phi Epsilon's Carlson Leadership Academy, bringing lessons from brothers and volunteers across the region back to Barton.

From Feb. 20–22, NC Iota joined SigEp brothers, alumni and volunteers in Atlanta, Georgia, for the 2026 Carlson Leadership Academy. Held each year shortly after many chapters elect new officers, Carlson is designed to prepare undergraduate leaders for the responsibilities that come with leading their chapters.

Rather than placing every officer in the same sessions, the academy provides education tailored to individual executive board positions. Brothers learn alongside SigEps serving in similar roles at other chapters, giving them an opportunity to exchange ideas and discuss approaches to recruitment, member development, programming, finances and other areas of chapter operations.

Among those attending was AVC President B.P. Cox, joining the chapter's undergraduate officers. Together, they represented both the active chapter and the NC Iota House Holding Corporation.

Throughout the weekend, each officer focused on the responsibilities of his own position while also learning how those roles work together as part of an executive board. Carlson's programming provided practical tools that could be brought back to Barton while giving NC Iota's leadership a chance to see how other chapters approach many of the same responsibilities and challenges.

For NC Iota, the trip came at an important point in the chapter's continued growth. With membership increasing and more brothers taking on leadership responsibilities, the weekend provided an opportunity to look beyond the chapter's day-to-day operations and focus on its direction for the year ahead.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO | ACTIVE CHAPTER

NC Iota was represented in Atlanta by, from left, Raymond Hardee, Charles James, B.P. Cox, Wyatt Rickard, Tucker Fleming, Braylon Canales, Tyler Stevens, Sammy Watkins and Miguel Rodriguez-Perez. Together, the group represented both the chapter's undergraduate leadership and Alumni and NC Iota House Holding Corporation.

Carlson also brought undergraduate leaders and alumni volunteers together, strengthening the relationship between those leading the chapter today and the alumni supporting them.

The group returned to Wilson with new ideas for their individual positions and a broader perspective on chapter leadership. With a growing brotherhood at 606 West Nash Street, those lessons would help guide NC Iota through the remainder of 2026.

A Different Kind of Brotherhood



PHOTO BY SIGMA PHI EPSILON | ARCHIVE
The 12 founding members of Sigma Phi Epsilon at Richmond College in 1901. Below, Ryland Hall, where the fraternity was founded.

On Nov. 1, 1901, 12 students at ***Richmond College*** in Virginia established Sigma Phi Epsilon, beginning a brotherhood that would eventually reach campuses across the country.

Five fraternities already existed on campus, but the founders sought something different. They envisioned an organization built on shared values, friendship and character rather than following established fraternity traditions.

Their early meetings took place in a third-floor dormitory room in **Ryland Hall**, shared by founders ***Benjamin Gaw*** and ***William Wallace***. From those humble beginnings, Sigma Phi Epsilon grew into a national fraternity guided by the principles of Virtue, Diligence and Brotherly Love.

The fraternity's commitment to challenging convention continued throughout its history. At the 1959 Grand Chapter Conclave, delegates voted to remove restrictions on membership based on race, ethnicity and religion, taking a significant step toward a more inclusive brotherhood at a time when segregation remained widespread across the country.



A BROTHERHOOD REACHES WILSON

The years following World War II brought significant expansion, with Sigma Phi Epsilon establishing 51 new chapters during the 1950s.

On April 26, 1958, North Carolina Iota was chartered at Atlantic Christian College in Wilson, becoming the 163rd chapter on the fraternity's national roll.

Today, as Sigma Phi Epsilon celebrates its 125th anniversary, NC Iota continues that legacy at Barton College. With its own 70th anniversary approaching in 2028, the chapter remains part of a brotherhood that began with 12 students determined to build ***something different.***

Better Together

Throughout the semesters, NC Iota brothers found plenty of opportunities to step away from classes and chapter business and spend time together. From brotherhood events and campus activities to socials with Barton's sororities, the chapter stayed active both on and off campus.

Brothers took part in everything from board game nights and Just Dance to a Wilson Warbirds game and Barton's Leadership Retreat. The chapter also joined Greek Life events organized by CAB and continued building relationships across Barton's Greek community through socials throughout the semester.

Board Games Night w/ DZ



ALL PHOTOS | FROM CHAPTER ARCHIVE

NC Iota hosted the sisters of Delta Zeta for a board game social on Feb. 6, 2026. During the evening, Delta Zeta sister Savannah Pearson was introduced as NC Iota's newest SigEp Sweetheart.





Just Dance w/ Tri Sigma



Warbirds Game Night Out





CAB INSTAGRAM VIDEO | SCREENSHOT
NC Iota brother and Barton SGA President Wyatt Rickard joined CAB President Lily Dierich in throwing out the first pitch at the Wilson Warbirds game against the Hickory Crawdads on August 25. The outing was organized by Barton's Campus Activities Board.

Miracle League Baseball Game





BARTON COLLEGE GREEK LIFE | CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Rain couldn't dampen the spirits of Barton College's Greek life community during an evening with the City of Wilson's Miracle League, an adaptive baseball program that gives children and adults with disabilities the opportunity to enjoy America's pastime. Students joined participants for an evening of baseball, encouragement and community fellowship.



Movie Night w/ DZ





PHOTOS BY KEITH TEW | BARTON COLLEGE

A CLEAN SWEEP

Competition, service and Greek unity took center stage March 9-12 as Barton College's fraternities and sororities came together for Greek Week 2026.

NC Iota had a strong showing throughout the week, taking first place in each of the five physical competitions. Brothers competed in hubby bunny, egg toss, pyramid, tug of war and a relay race featuring a series of obstacles. The chapter completed the sweep with a first-place finish in the relay race.

The competition continued with Greek Week music trivia, where NC Iota came just short of another victory. The chapter finished second behind Tri Sigma, adding another strong performance to the week.

On Wednesday, Greek Week shifted its focus from competition to community service. Barton's Greek organizations worked together to assemble Easter baskets for boys and girls who attend weekly group sessions through Wesley Shelter in Wilson. The project gave members of the Greek community an opportunity to come together for a shared cause before returning to the week's competitions.

By the end of Greek Week, NC Iota had earned first-place finishes in every physical event and a second-place finish in music trivia, making the week one of the chapter's strongest showings of the semester.



5 EVENTS. 5 WINS.

Chubby Bunny, Egg Toss, Pyramid, Tug of War, Relay Race









CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Taking the Stage

For the first time in several years, one of Barton College's longest-running Greek traditions returned to the same weekend as NC Iota's Founders Day celebration. The timing gave alumni another reason to return to Wilson and a chance to watch the active chapter extend a streak more than a decade in the making.

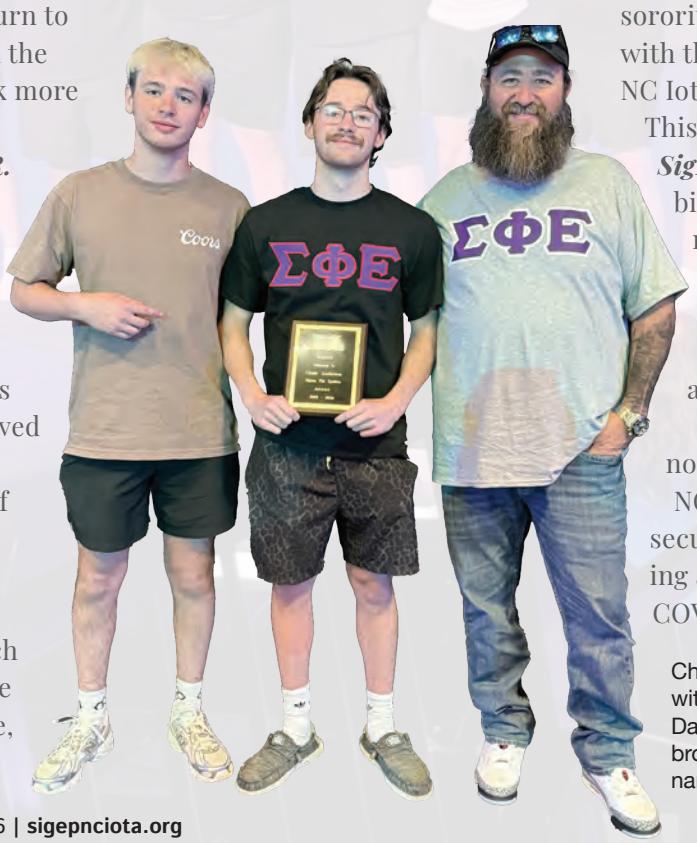
The 57th annual Dr. Allan R. Sharp Greek Show brought Barton's fraternities and sororities together for a night of competition through choreographed dance performances. Formerly known as Greek Sing, the event has evolved over the years, with dancing becoming the primary focus of the competition.

NC Iota, however, has continued to preserve part of the event's original tradition. Each year, the brothers incorporate a song into their performance, typically dedicating it to the chapter's sweethearts and the sororities who support the fraternity.

Preparation for Greek Show began months before the brothers took the stage. **Braylon Canales** began planning the performance in January, and practices started almost immediately after students returned for classes in February. Each year, the chapter partners with a Barton sorority for help preparing the show, with the sisters of Tri Sigma joining NC Iota for the 2026 performance.

This year's ***Where we'd be without SigEp***-themed performance combined weeks of practice into one night on stage as the chapter looked to continue a winning streak that began before many of its current brothers arrived at Barton.

When the results were announced, the streak continued. NC Iota captured its 11th consecutive Greek Show title, extending a run that began before the COVID-19 pandemic and contin-



Chase Anderson, middle, taking a photo with his brother Cole, left, and father David, right, who is also an honorary brother of the chapter, after he was named the Greek Man of the Year.

Watch the Show

Scan to watch NC Iota's 2026 Greek Show performance and 11th consecutive winning routine.

ued when the competition returned. Across eleven consecutive competitions, generations of brothers have carried the chapter's winning tradition forward.

This year's victory held additional meaning with Greek Show once again taking place during Founders Day weekend. Although NC Iota officially celebrates its founding on April 26, bringing the two events together provided another opportunity for alumni to return to Barton and participate in the weekend. Following Greek Show, alumni and active brothers returned to 606 Nash Street to continue the Founders Day celebration.

The chapter had more than its performance to celebrate that evening.

NC Iota brother **Chase Anderson** was named Greek Man of the Year, recognizing his service, academic achievement and involvement throughout the Barton community. Anderson is also a member of Barton's swim team, balancing his involvement in the fraternity with the demands of being a collegiate student-athlete while maintaining a strong presence on campus and promoting Greek life.

NC Iota Sweetheart and Tri Sigma sister, **Emma Dalton,** was also recognized as Greek Woman of the Year, adding another connection to the chapter among the evening's top individual honors.

From its beginnings as Greek Sing to today's dance-centered competition, the Dr. Allan R. Sharp Greek Show has continued to evolve across its 57 years. NC Iota's commitment to keeping the singing tradition alive connects today's performances to those remembered by generations of alumni.

11 consecutive titles have created another tradition along the way. And with alumni once again in the audience as part of Founders Day weekend, this year's Greek Show brought several generations of NC Iota together to watch the chapter take the stage and bring home another win.



Tyler Stevens, left, and Wyatt Rickard, right, strike a pose with recent chapter trophies after their performance.



Back Where It Began

NC Iota celebrates 68 years at Barton

For 68 years, generations of Sigma Phi Epsilon brothers have called Barton College home. This spring, alumni once again returned to Wilson to celebrate that history alongside the active chapter during NC Iota's annual Founders Day weekend.

The weekend began Friday with a more relaxed opportunity for brothers to reconnect. Alumni gathered for a simulator golf tournament organized by B.P. Cox before joining the chapter for Barton's Greek Show later that evening. Following the show, brothers and alumni returned to the fraternity house to continue the celebration.



Saturday's activities began at 10 a.m. at the chapter house with a Bojangles brunch and a Q&A session between alumni and the active chapter. The gathering gave alumni an opportunity to hear about the current state of NC Iota, ask questions about chapter operations and speak directly with the brothers leading the chapter today.

The afternoon brought brothers outside for lawn games and the return of NC Iota's room-naming auction. Held once every two years, the tradition allows alumni to bid for naming rights to individual rooms throughout the chapter house. Beyond putting their mark on 606, proceeds from the auction support the continued care and improve-



ment of the house.

The weekend also provided an opportunity to recognize two brothers whose service has made a lasting impact on NC Iota.

After 55 years as Chapter Counselor, ***Bobby Bennett*** was honored by the chapter for more than half a century of guidance and service. Generations of NC Iota brothers have known Bobby as a constant presence within the fraternity, making the recognition particularly meaningful with alumni from across those generations gathered together at the house.

B.P. Cox was also recognized for his service to Sigma Phi Epsilon when District Governor Phil Smith, UNC Wilmington '94, presented him with the fraternity's 2025 District 11 Volunteer of the Year Award. District 11 includes active chapters at NC State, Duke, Barton and Elon, along with campus representation at UNC Greensboro.

Saturday evening concluded with a formal dinner at the chapter house. Renaissance Brothers ***David "Breezy" Anderson III*** and ***Nick Canales*** hosted a traditional Eastern North Carolina pig picking for the evening's dinner. Afterward, The Blackwater Band, featuring ***Ty Fleming***, performed for brothers and guests, closing the weekend with live music at 606.







More than six decades after NC Iota first became part of Barton College, Founders Day remains an opportunity to bring those generations together. From alumni returning to the house to current brothers sharing where the chapter stands today, the weekend served as both a celebration of the fraternity's past and a reminder that the brotherhood built at Barton continues long after graduation.





Chapter wins President's Trophy

NC Iota capped off a successful 2025-26 academic year by receiving one of Barton College's top honors for student organizations: **The President's Trophy**.

The award recognizes the campus club or organization with the highest participation in college-sponsored events throughout the academic year, making it a reflection of a group's involvement across the Barton community.



For NC Iota, the recognition marked the return of an honor more than two decades in the making.

The chapter became the first fraternity to receive the President's Trophy since NC Iota last won the award during the 1998-99 academic year. The achievement reflected a year in which brothers maintained an active presence across campus while balancing academics, athletics, fraternity responsibilities and involvement in other student organizations.

The trophy also added to a year of recognition for the chapter and those connected to it.

Dr. Gerard Lange, NC Iota's faculty advisor, was named Barton's Faculty of the Year, recognizing an individual who has remained an important supporter of the chapter and its brothers.

Recognition extended beyond the chapter at Barton's Night of the Golden Bulldogs, a formal celebration of the college's student-athletes and their accomplishments. NC Iota Sweetheart and Tri Sigma sister, **Emma Dalton**, received the Bulldog Pride Award, recognizing her involvement and contributions as a student-athlete and member of the Barton community.

Together, the honors reflected a year in which SigEp's presence extended well beyond the fraternity house. From participation in campus events to academics, athletics and leadership, brothers and those closely connected to the chapter continued to make their mark throughout Barton.

For NC Iota, however, bringing the President's Trophy back to the chapter for the first time since 1998-99 provided a particularly fitting way to close the academic year.

By the numbers

2.9
OVERALL GPA

5
AWARDS IN 2026

14
NEW MEMBERS Fall 2026 class

20
STUDENT-ATHLETES

33
ACTIVE BROTHERS



From left: David “Breezy” Anderson, Nick Canales, Randall Hardee and Ty Fleming.

Three Wise Men become Four

During Barton College’s homecoming weekend (October 24–26, 2025), the North Carolina Iota Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon welcomed three extraordinary new members: fathers of active brothers who have played instrumental roles in the chapter’s revival.

David “Breezy” Anderson, **Nick Canales**, and **Randall Hardee**—fathers of current members ***Chase Anderson (’27)***, ***Braylon Canales (’28)***, and ***Raymond Hardee (’27)***, respectively—were honored and initiated as Renaissance, aka Honorary Brothers. In a heartfelt reversal of tradition, each son led his own father through the Ritual ceremony and was the first to welcome him into the bonds of brotherhood. For many alumni in attendance—some participating in their first Ritual in over 30 years—it was a deeply moving experience filled with shared stories and renewed passion for SigEp.

Nick Canales, Vice President of M&T Equipment Finance Corporation in Charlotte, NC, reflected on the initiation: “After the ceremony, I truly understood what Sigma Phi Epsilon stands for—not just for its members, but for the community and world they live in. I’ve always been part of my son’s life, from his athletic achievements to his personal challenges. But being inducted into his fraternity created a much deeper bond. It’s more than a title or recognition; I’ve gained dozens of sons to guide and brothers to lean on. I’m incredibly proud to be part of Sigma Phi Epsilon.”

The contributions of these men extend far beyond their initiation weekend. **“Breezy” Anderson**, Facility Director at ECU Health Beaufort Hospital in Washington, NC, and owner of Big Breezy Rentals, has provided catering and event support. **Randall Hardee**, owner of Hardee Brothers Grading Company in Clayton, NC, has assisted with repairs and appliance replacements at the chapter house. The group welcomed a fourth Renaissance Brother in October 2026 with the initiation of **Ty Fleming**, father of brothers ***Tucker Fleming (’27)*** and ***Brody Fleming (’28)***. A member of The Blackwater Band, Fleming has helped bring live music to the chapter’s Founders Day and Homecoming celebrations. Together, the four continue to support chapter activities and maintain connections with the brothers, contributing to the preservation of the chapter’s historically recognized home, which will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2028.

This unique initiation underscores the remarkable resurgence of NC Iota. Once reduced to just five members in the wake of COVID and a broader decline in Barton’s Greek system, the chapter—guided by Order of the Golden Heart recipient ***Bobby Bennett (ACC ’67)*** and energized by renewed alumni engagement—now boasts 33 outstanding young men. From nine football players and a team manager to two swimmers, a nursing major, two marching band members, a criminal justice honor society member, two Eagle Scouts, and even a licensed pilot, the brothers exemplify exceptional character, leadership, and diligence.

With a strong new executive board in place, NC Iota is poised to continue leading Barton’s Greek community. The chapter looks forward to attending the Carlson Leadership Academy in Atlanta in January 2027, eager to connect with brothers from across the country and advance Sigma Phi Epsilon’s mission.

This article was contributed by B.P. Cox (NC Iota ’99), NC Iota Chapter Counselor and Alumni and Volunteer Corporation president.

A Royal Homecoming



PHOTO BY KEITH TEW | BARTON COLLEGE



RECONNECT
RESTORE
SECURE OUR FUTURE

For generations, 606 Nash Street has been more than a chapter house. It has been a home where lifelong friendships were formed and memories were made. Help us preserve this legacy so future generations can call it home, too.

SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO HELP »

sigepnciota.org/donate/capital-campaign



Homecoming King crowned as generations of brothers return to Wilson

Generations of NC Iota brothers returned to Wilson Oct. 23–25 as Barton College celebrated Homecoming 2026 and its 125th anniversary. The weekend brought alumni, active brothers, families and friends together for three days of brotherhood, football and familiar faces.

For NC Iota, one of the weekend's highlights came with the crowning of brother **Wyatt Rickard** as Barton's 2026 Homecoming King. Rickard became the first SigEp to receive the honor since eligibility expanded to include other student organizations and athletic teams three years ago. Tri Sigma sister Tristin Green was crowned Homecoming Queen.

Homecoming began Friday evening with a meet-and-greet at the chapter house. Alumni returned to 606 Nash Street to catch up with old friends, meet current brothers and share stories from their own years at Barton.

The weekend saw a particularly strong turnout from alumni who attended Barton during the late 1980s and 1990s. Their presence brought familiar faces back to the house, with many reconnecting with brothers they had known for decades

PHOTO BY KEITH TEW | BARTON COLLEGE
NC Iota brother Wyatt Rickard, left, and Tri Sigma sister Tristin Green were crowned Barton College's 2026 Homecoming King and Queen.



PHOTO BY KEITH TEW | BARTON COLLEGE

while getting to know the current generation of NC Iota.

Saturday moved the celebration onto campus, where NC Iota had its Homecoming tailgate tent ahead of Barton football's matchup against North Greenville. Brothers, alumni, families and friends gathered under the SigEp tent before heading to the game, where the chapter also had an opportunity to support active brothers representing Barton on the football team.

Although the Bulldogs fell 33–7 to North Greenville, the afternoon provided another opportunity for alumni and active brothers to come together in support of their college.

Following the game, the celebration returned to the chapter house for dinner and live music. Honorary brothers ***David "Breezy" Anderson III*** and ***Nick Canales*** prepared barbecue for the evening as brothers and guests gathered at 606.

The Blackwater Band returned to provide live music, with honorary brother ***Ty Fleming*** joining the performance. The evening continued into Saturday night, with alumni from the late 1980s and 1990s making up a particularly large portion of those gathered at the house.

For many returning brothers, the weekend offered an opportunity to revisit a place that had been an important part of their college years. Although the faces and generations have changed, the house at 606 Nash Street continues to bring together brothers whose experiences with NC Iota span decades.

Homecoming weekend concluded Sunday, with returning alumni invited to join the active chapter for its evening meeting before another Homecoming came to a close.

As Barton celebrated 125 years of its history, Homecoming offered NC Iota an opportunity to recognize an achievement of its own with Rickard's selection as Homecoming King while welcoming generations of alumni back to Wilson.

From the tailgate on campus to the gatherings at 606, the weekend reflected the connections that continue long after graduation. For the brothers who returned and those currently calling the chapter house home, Homecoming remained an opportunity to celebrate the college, renew friendships and carry NC Iota's traditions forward.



NC Iota Tomorrow

Hello to my fellow Alumni & Brothers,

As I approach the halfway mark of my second term as AVC Board president, it seems like it was forever ago that our active chapter had six members and we usually had the same 2-4 people showing up on our monthly AVC Board calls. Look at where we are now.



Today, NC Iota currently stands at **33 Brothers**. Our Brothers are leaders on campus (***Wyatt Rickard**, SGA President*), in the classroom (five Brothers on the *Dean's List*, one on *President's List* and an active chapter GPA of 2.9), and on the field of competition (Brothers involved with football, swimming, triathlon, bowling, and E-Sports). The Chapter won **Greek Show** for the 11th time in a row. They locked up **Greek Man of the Year** (***Chase Anderson***). They won the **Greek Games**. The Chapter became the first fraternity to win the **President's Trophy** for the first time since the late 1990's. And most importantly, they are about to see SEVEN seniors graduate with their degrees and receive their Ducal Crowns.

It is easy to continue to look back at where we have come from, especially while we have experienced impressive growth. Now it is time to look to the future.

Today we take measures to secure that our future at Barton College and the fraternity house at 606 Nash St is locked in for years to come.

Here is a list that we are focusing on with the AVC Chapter:

RECONNECTING GENERATIONS

This is the most important key to success. Several classes have gone dark in that they do not stay in touch with NC Iota and do not come back to the fraternity house at all. We need to get these Brothers back engaged with SigEp! This includes identifying new volunteers and training them to take leadership roles on the board.

PRESERVING OUR CHAPTER HOUSE

Numerous patchwork jobs have been done to the house throughout the years. Repairs to the HVAC, the roof getting patched up, maybe some paint here and there. We must take proper steps to ensure the house gets the necessary repairs to the flooring, roof, and structure itself so that many future classes of NC Iota Brothers have a place to call Home at Barton College. This includes our top six punchlist items:

- Replace the damaged existing HVAC units with mini-split units throughout the house
- Replace the front porch covering
- Repair any flooring damage throughout the house
- Ensure the electrical system is in good shape
- Repair damaged walls throughout the house
- Replace all toilets in the house including renovating the Back Hall bathroom

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

This has already been started in the shape of recurring monthly donations. The next step is to establish annual pledges of $1,000 and more. As related to the needs for the property, there is a Fundraising Group that is currently working on calling our database of Alumni to not only confirm their information but to donate to the AVC Chapter.

70 YEARS OF NC IOTA, 100 YEARS OF 606

There are initial plans in place to hold our **70th Founder's Day** in 2028 at the Wilson Country Club. This would be a black tie event and a gala for all NC Iota members past and present to attend. With these anniversaries in the near future, this gives us time to properly pursue capital campaign efforts to raise money for the renovation of the House as well as plan our 70th Anniversary. There will be a formal capital campaign established to focus on the renovation fund raising efforts with the goal to have these renovations completed in time for Founder's Day 2028.

There are several other projects we will work on outside of the **606 @ 100 Campaign** including completing the back deck repairs as well as replacing the fence on the western side of the property. These will be the emphasis of a Winter Heart Day with hopes to avoid the heat we get during Heart Days in the Summer. If we can schedule two Heart Days each year with the Winter day focused on outdoor projects and the Summer day focused on indoor projects respectively, I believe we can make major headway on these smaller aesthetic works leading up to the 70th anniversary.



It doesn't matter if you have been coming back to the House often or whether you left owing a few bucks to the Chapter... the score is 0-0. We have a lot of work to do to continue to develop our young Brothers into young Alumni ready to take life on when they graduate. We also have a lot of work to do to overhaul the Ol' Gal of 606 Nash St and make the house ready to serve as the Home of NC Iota for the next 40+ years.

As the grains of sand slip through the hourglass, so glide the precious moments, and once gone they and their opportunities are beyond recall. I need your help. We need your help. Please join us as we continue our Lifetime Commitment to our Brothers and Sigma Phi Epsilon.

May you live and act that we shall always be glad to grasp you by the hand...and welcome you Home.

In Brotherhood,

B.P. Cox
CHAPTER COUNSELOR
& AVC PRESIDENT

The Creed of Sigma Phi Epsilon

I believe in the American college fraternity. I believe in Sigma Phi Epsilon. I believe in this fraternity because it would have me strive in every way to live up to the high principles for which it stands. These are ***VIRTUE, DILIGENCE, AND BROTHERLY LOVE***.

I believe that the word **Virtue** is an inclusive term; that it is not enough that I be merely passively virtuous: I must be positive on virtue's behalf. Therefore, I will stand aggressively for honesty in all walks of life, and I will speak cleanly, play cleanly, and live cleanly. Whenever I can, I will oppose lawlessness and vice.

I believe that unless I succeed in being **Diligent**, I cannot be a good fraternity member. Believing that my fraternity can be no greater than any of its members, I shall strive to make it so high and so worthy that men will consider it an honor and privilege to belong to it, and will strive to be admitted to it. I will not offer concessions to an individual to secure his affiliation, for thus making concessions makes the man more noteworthy than the fraternity and hence only succeeds in lowering it in his estimation as well as mine.

I believe that **Brotherly Love** must be given in order to be received, and that it cannot exist without triumph of the principles of Virtue and Diligence, for these are essential parts of it.

I believe that a man will be made better for having been a member of my fraternity. I know that I cannot expect the Neophyte to be a finished product. Rather I will try to discover whether or not the environment and contact with men of high ideals will make of him a good fraternity man.

I believe that as a good fraternity member I must share a rich kinship of spirit with my brothers. Yet I realize that the members must be men of diversified abilities and talents. Among them are to be found the scholar, the athlete, the builder and craftsman, and the organization leader. But the scholar cannot make a fraternity. Nor can the athlete. Nor the craftsman. The good fraternity member must be par excellent in manhood.

I believe that to be a good member I must be loyal to my fraternity. In order to be loyal to it I must love it. In order to love it I must strive constantly to make it worthy of my love. To be loyal to my fraternity I must gain a knowledge of it so that I may understand it. I have an obligation to understand what brotherhood means.

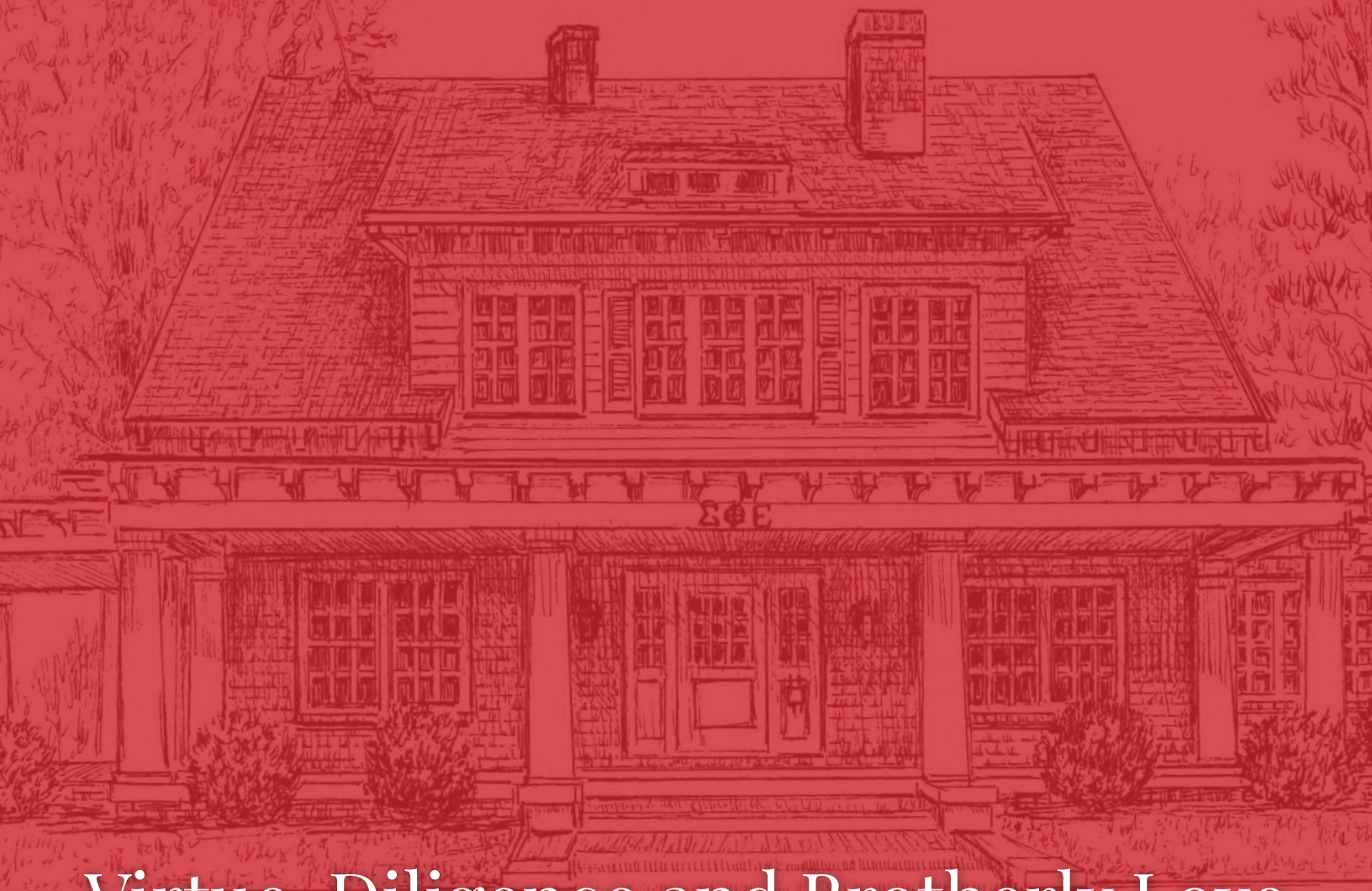
I believe that in any organized society group rights and privileges are based on individual rights and privileges; that in my fraternity I possess the same rights and privileges and have the same duties as my fellow members. Therefore, I shall at all times respect duly the rights of others.

I believe that obedience to the laws of my community and my country is essential to good citizenship; that the laws and rules of my fraternity and my chapter are intended to regulate the actions of its members, one with another, and that without fidelity to those laws and rules I cannot be a good citizen and a worthy member of Sigma Phi Epsilon.

I believe I should be generous with the faults of a brother, as I should wish him to be with mine.

Sigma Phi Epsilon

NC Iota



Virtue, Diligence and Brotherly Love

606 Nash Street NE
Wilson NC 27893

sigepnciota.org