

Thomas Gryb (HB 448)

Sigma Nu Scholarship

Sigma Nu has been an experience of a lifetime that has helped me become a man of values while giving me the time of my life. Sigma Nu taught me to live by the values of love, honor, and truth; while surrounding me with brothers having the same beliefs. Sigma Nu was the outlet I needed early in college, it showed me the balance between work and play needed to have a full college experience. While other organizations focused on only sports, academics, and community service; Sigma Nu offered a diverse range of experiences that made me a leader in all aspects. As a senior now, I have realized that Sigma Nu did not only give me skills to succeed in college, but also the rest of my life. Being the recruitment chair during our re-chartering stages provided me with challenges that made me become a stronger leader.

The most influential aspect of Sigma Nu for me was through recruitment. As recruitment chair I was responsible for shaping the future of the fraternity by motivating the Eta Beta men to speak to others about joining a brotherhood that was different on ECU's campus. The difficulty in this was building a good reputation, motivating men in their 20s to recruit men based on qualities other than partying, and meeting numbers to fulfil the charter requirements. No one knew how I could meet these goals specific to ECU, so I had to learn how to pave my own way. Through Sigma Nu I learned how to motivate people towards a common goal, meet requirements set, and how to be a leader, not a boss. These are skills that I will take into the future and will help me excel in society and my career. Sigma Nu showed me that you must be the change you want to see.

I joined Sigma Nu on the premises that it was a fraternity above the rest and strived to be the best in everything it was associated in. As the recruitment chair I realized for me to continue this legacy I must not just talk about it, but also be the ideal Sigma Nu. I made sure I attended everything possible and tried to bring more brothers with me when I did. I spoke up when no one else would and made sure we stuck to our values. I noticed people appreciated this since majority of brothers wanted me in their committees for help or to help them make decisions on other aspects of their life. I saw the difference in telling people what to do and showing them. Sigma Nu gave me a voice that made me feel like I could make an impact to the culture on ECU's campus. We reinforced the fact that fraternities can do good in the community and have strong academics; while also being social as the rest of Greek life.

I feel I deserve this scholarship due to my work ethic and dedication to honor. My major has been rigorous, but I have continued to be involved and help improve the chapter. I feel I was part of the group that wants to see Sigma Nu not only become the most popular on campus, but also in the community. I by far do not take responsibility for all we have accomplished, but I did help us get there. I knew the Eta Beta Chapter of Sigma Nu began on a solid foundation of values and that the most difficult challenge would be to maintain those values and not become complacent as we grew. I also saw the change I wanted to see in ECU's Greek life and believe I helped Sigma Nu start to become that change. I deserve this scholarship because I believe in a life of love, walk in the way of honor, and will serve in the light of truth for the rest of my life. I will continue to live by and be an example of what it means to be a knight.

Financially I deserve this scholarship due to the recent impact of Florence. I live in Oriental, NC and the majority of my community was affected. The damage to my family's home and business has set us back financially. I have been home working on my own home and others every weekend since the hurricane hit. My family is fortunate to have the damage we did, but any assistance with expenses is very helpful.