

James Ralph “Shug” Jordan

Award for Outstanding Scholar-Athlete

2020/2021 Application



About James Ralph “Shug” Jordan

(Chi/Auburn 1932)

James Ralph “Shug” Jordan is best known for serving as the head football coach at his alma mater, Auburn University, from 1951 to 1975 and for leading Auburn to a national championship in 1957. Auburn’s football stadium bears his name.

Born in Selma, AL on Sept. 25, 1910, Brother Jordan was known to his friends simply as “Shug” for his love of sugar cane. As a student in the late 1920s and early 1930s, he was a three-sport athlete and a leader in many campus organizations. In addition to his fraternity involvement, he served as treasurer of his senior class, was a member of Blue Key, and a member of Spades – an organization which is composed of the ten most prominent and influential members of the senior class at Auburn.

Jordan fought in World War II as a combat engineer and officer in the United States Army, and he participated in the invasions of North Africa, Sicily, Italy, and France. During the invasion of Normandy on D-Day, Jordan was wounded but chose to stay with his men, refusing evacuation to a hospital ship. After recovering from his wounds, he continued action in the Pacific theater, taking part in the invasion of Okinawa. He received the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star for his service in the war.

During his coaching career, his reputation among sportsmen grew to great heights, and he touched the lives of many colleagues and players. The following excerpt, taken from the 1993 book *Shug: The Life and Times of Auburn’s Ralph “Shug” Jordan* by Rich Donnell, summarizes Brother Jordan’s career:

Jeff Beard, Auburn’s athletic director from 1951 to 1972, and one of the men most responsible for hiring Jordan as head coach in 1951, marveled at Jordan’s record and career. Few coaches in the history of college football can match Jordan’s accomplishments. But Beard also said of his close friend Shug: “His record doesn’t speak for him as a man.”

His 1957 team won the national championship with a 10-0 record. Thirteen times, Jordan’s teams finished in the Associated Press top twenty, seven times in the top ten, and four times in the top five. Jordan produced a Heisman Trophy winner in 1971 in quarterback Pat Sullivan, and an Outland Trophy winner in 1958 - guard Zeke Smith. Twenty-two players made first-team All-American during the Jordan era. Of his twenty-five Auburn teams, twenty-two had winning records.

Beard’s comment about Jordan - that even his sterling record didn’t match the greatness of the man - was not meant to minimize Jordan’s numbers on the field or the honors he achieved. Certainly 176 victories, which places Jordan high on the all-time win list ahead of such greats as General Bob Neyland, Wallace Wade and Bobby Dodd, are not to be understated; nor are Jordan’s four SEC Coach of the Year awards (1953, 1957, and 1972, as given by the Associated Press; and 1963 by United Press International).

According to Beard, Jordan the man was bigger than the game – that the makeup of Jordan’s character impacted his peers and players long after the final horn had sounded.

In honor of Brother Jordan, Auburn’s football stadium was renamed Jordan-Hare Stadium in 1973, making it the first stadium in the United States to be named after an active coach. He was posthumously inducted into the National Football Hall of Fame in 1982.

About the Shug Jordan Award

The James Ralph “Shug” Jordan Award was commissioned by the Grand Chapter to honor one collegiate scholar-athlete of the Fraternity each year who exemplifies the qualities of leadership, citizenship, brotherhood, and who represents a commitment to excellence in intercollegiate athletics.

The Shug Jordan Award is a nomination process. This means that the form should be filled out by someone other than the nominee. Letters of recommendation, as well as supporting materials, may be attached as needed. This is an opportunity for chapters, colonies, and interest groups to nominate a brother who has demonstrated the qualities of leadership, commitment to the ideals and values of Theta Chi, and loyalty to alma mater both on and off the athletic field.

All collegiate members of Theta Chi that are involved in varsity athletics are eligible to be nominated for the award. Members who are graduating this spring are eligible. Nominees must have participated in a varsity sport for the institution during the 2017/2018 academic school year.

During non-Convention years (odd years), the “Shug” Jordan Award will be presented to the winner at a local campus, chapter, or regional event by a member of the Grand Chapter or someone designated by the Grand Chapter. The winner will be invited to the next Convention. Any runner(s)-up to the Jordan Award will be recognized by an official family member at a campus or chapter event. The runner(s)-up will be invited to attend the next Convention at his own expense.

Past Recipients of the Shug Jordan Award

1995/1996	Scott M. Ogeka (Delta/RPI 1997)
1996/1997	Tyler E. Benedum (Beta Eta/Washington (MD) 1998)
1997/1998	Jason A. Ross (Delta Iota/Northwestern 1998)
1998/1999	Brian L. Cardinal (Alpha Delta/Purdue 1999)
1999/2000	Jason J. Andrighetti (Eta Iota/Newberry 2001)
2000/2001	Zachary D. Edwards (Theta Kappa/Texas Tech 2005)
2001/2002	David W. Finneran (Alpha Xi/Delaware 2002)
2002/2003	Andrew D. Keimer (Zeta Beta/Adrian 2004)
2003/2004	Michael A. Poloha (Zeta Beta/Adrian 2004)
2004/2005	Kevin J. Knutson (Delta Xi/Valparaiso 2005)
2005/2006	Erik D. Lange (Zeta Kappa/Ohio Northern 2007)
2006/2007	Jason D. Carmichael (Gamma Chi/Randolph-Macon 2007)
2007/2008	Ryan D. Koepke (Delta Xi/Valparaiso 2008)
2008/2009	Rodrigo S. Correa (Epsilon Psi/NJIT 2009)
2009/2010	No Presentation
2010/2011	Christopher R. Bodle (Zeta Lambda/Westminster 2011)
2011/2012	Brandon J. Taylor (Delta Omega/Ripon 2012)
2012/2013	Patrick Luke Hancock (Eta Chi/George Mason 2013) (Louisville)
2013/2014	Derek Christopher Kay (Gamma Phi/Nebraska Wesleyan 2014)
2014/2015	No Presentation
2015/2016	Connor W. Bohlken (Gamma Phi/Nebraska Wesleyan 2017)
2016/2017	Daniel S. Novinski (Gamma Phi/Nebraska Wesleyan 2019)
2017/2018	Carter A. Lyons (Gamma Phi/Nebraska Wesleyan 2019)
2018/2019	No Presentation
2019/2020	No Presentation

Application Procedures

James Ralph “Shug” Jordan Award 2020/2021 Application

1. Applications must contain accurate and up-to-date information about the applicant’s performance during the fall 2020 and spring 2021 semesters. Inaccurate information will serve as a basis for disqualification
2. Applications must:
 - a. Be submitted in either .doc or .pdf format; paper applications will **not** be accepted
 - b. Use standard 8 ½” by 11” paper with one-half inch margins, and 12-point Times New Roman font
 - c. Please email the application as one file attachment (including all supporting materials and documentation) to awards@thetachi.org
3. There is a **fifty (50) page limit** for the application
4. Every question must be answered, even if only to notify the committee that the question is not applicable
5. Any questions concerning the Jordan Award application should be directed to the International Headquarters by calling 317-848-1856 or via email at awards@thetachi.org
6. Applications must be emailed to awards@thetachi.org by **Saturday, April 10, 2021**

James Ralph “Shug” Jordan Award

2020/2021 Application

Section I- Introductory Letter

The Chapter President should write a brief letter explaining why the chapter has nominated this brother for the Shug Jordan Award. If the nominated brother is the Chapter President, the Vice President should compose the letter. Additionally, please indicate that all the information contained in the application is complete and accurate. The letter will serve to certify that fact and should be signed by the author and the nominee.

Section II- Statistics and Information

Please include **all** the following information in the application:

- Applicant's full name
- Chapter and college/university
- Class (freshman, sophomore, junior, senior)
- Anticipated graduation date
- Current address, city, state, and zip code
- Summer address, city, state, and zip code
- Date when he will be at summer address
- Cell phone number
- Email address
- Varsity sport(s)
- Years participated; indicate years you lettered with a * (*ex. Baseball: 2018, 2019*, 2020**)
- Applicant's parent(s)' or guardian(s)' names
- Mailing address, city, state, and zip code of parent(s)/guardian(s)
- Telephone and/or cell phone numbers of parent(s)/guardian(s)
- Name of nominee's hometown newspaper and contact information (phone, website, email)
- Name of campus newspaper and contact information (phone, website, e-mail)

Section III- Additional Information

Information on the subjects listed below must be given in detail in the application:

1. Academic Performance

- a. Nominee's major or degree of interest
- b. Individual scholastic record and grade point average (cumulative as of January 1, 2021)
- c. Any awards, recognition or achievements earned by the nominee (Include membership in any academic honorary organizations such as Gamma Sigma Alpha, Alpha Eta Sigma, or other professional or honorary societies)

2. Chapter/Campus Leadership

- a. List any offices held in the chapter and the term of office (Example: Marshal, fall 2020)
- b. Provide a brief description of the level of participation and involvement in the chapter by the nominee. Include examples of leadership and brotherhood
- c. Please outline any involvement in other campus activities or organizations and offices held, if any (Example: Greek Week Committee Chairman, spring 2019; Interfraternity Council Vice President, 2019/2020)

3. International/Regional Involvement

- a. Please outline participation at any regional or international Theta Chi Fraternity events (Example: International Convention/School of Fraternity Practices, Theta Chi University, Initiative Academy, Sasser Presidents Conference, Our Sacred Purpose, Marshals Summit, Chaplains Conference, Amplify Theta Chi)
- b. Please outline participation in any other Greek-related events or conferences (Example: Mid-American Greek Council Association [MGCA], Northeast Greek Leadership Association [NGLA], Southeast Interfraternity Conference [SEIFC], Western Regional Greek Conference [WRGC], or the Undergraduate Interfraternity Institute [UIFI])

4. Citizenship and Community Involvement

- a. Please describe the nominee's involvement in campus and community service, including any public service projects
- b. Please outline any local or civic organizations to which the nominee belongs

Section IV- Recommendations

A maximum of three letters of recommendation may be submitted with your nomination. Letters must be originals and must be signed. Letters of recommendation may be submitted by any person familiar with the nominee and his contributions to campus, chapter, or community athletics.