



# Sigma Phi FLAME

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## Union: Managing the Change

by Brian Roache U'97

I was asked to share my perspective on the current state of The Alpha so that the broader national audience could get a sense of the situation in Schenectady. Our situation is best summed up by a quote from one of our Alumni Board members during one of our debates, "It's an exciting time to be a Sigma Phi!" At this point, I could not agree more.

I was an undergraduate when The Alpha's existence was in serious jeopardy at the hands of the Union College administration. As I sit here now as the Alpha's Alumni President, I am filled with a renewed hope and vigor about what's ahead. We have picked ourselves up and moved on in a manner which I believe befits the Sigma Phi. As I explained in my most recent 'Pepperbox' article, we will move forward into this new era with a sense of urgency, commitment, and pride.

Let me update you on two specific happenings in and around Schenectady. First, as you may have already heard, The Alpha will host Convention this fall. This will be the final convention held at the current Sigma Phi Place, which dates back to 1906. The 2003 Convention will be held concurrently with the Alpha's fall Swing. This will surely change convention dynamics, and make for a doubly memorable Sig experience. I ask that you keep this in mind when making your travel arrangements, as the house will

be closed to worldlings at certain points during the weekend, and alternate activities have not been planned.

You may also know that the Alpha's Alumni Board has purchased a building within sight of the current Sig home at 10 Union Avenue. This property and its future use have been the primary focus of the Alumni Board's efforts in recent months. We are tackling everything from zoning restrictions and designing the new Hall of The Alpha to a "decommissioning" ceremony that will formally mark our transition from one building to the next.

We are a busy group right now. As the summer draws near, our activity will only increase. In the recent newsletter, I put out a call to all members of The Alpha to reconnect with our Society and give of themselves to help and shape our future. Not necessarily with monetary donations, I explained, but with donated time. We understand that it will take a huge effort to get us where we need to be, so let me extend a heartfelt invitation to all members of the Sigma Phi. If you wish to get involved, please contact me. We welcome the efforts of any Wandering Bird willing to lend a hand.

We at the Alpha are moving forward, shaping our Society's future. Despite the challenges and despite the change, we won't stand by and allow 176 years of Friendship, Love, and Truth to be extinguished by the Union College administration. You may not be able to sense it through this letter, but I am smiling as I write this. Why? Because I am optimistic



The Alpha of New York has had only two homes in its long and august history -- the Pepperbox and the Place at Library Lane -- and is now preparing to move yet again.



The Gilmour Tiffany window at the current Place at Library Lane



about our future. Worldly changes notwithstanding, we are determined to keep The Flame alive as it lights our path into this new and exciting era. ■

**Convention 2003**  
November 7-9 • Schenectady, NY

# The Other Side

by Hugh Leoni G'99

The annual Flagship Banquet made its triumphant return on March 1, with Sigs from around the country gathered to celebrate. The setting was the 3 West Club across the street from Rockefeller Center in midtown Manhattan. This was also the first flagship banquet for Jim Jenkins S'58 as the new Chairman of the Society.

Preceding the banquet during the morning and early afternoon, the Standing and Advisory Committee held its winter meeting, followed closely by a meeting of the Trustees of the Sigma Phi Educational Foundation. These two occasions represented my first experience inside the mysterious walls of a Sigma Phi national meeting.

In my first glimpse of the "inner circle" of Sigma Phi, I realized that the men of the Standing & Advisory committee are a group of men (many of them lawyers, by the way) with one common thread — loyalty. This loyalty came in various forms: loyalty to 1) the Society, 2) a set of ideals, or 3) a timeless tradition. But vastly more impressive is the loyalty to the man across the table. This is where the ideals live. To celebrate the founding of Sigma Phi is to celebrate that unfettered connection between boys who become men and men who - in turn - become gentlemen.

The meetings were anything but brief and at times they were quite drawn out, but for good reason. Each delegate or visitor was there for the same reason: to better the Society that has given so much. Whether the

topic was pledge dues, the World Wide Web, the sale of the Beta house, Jell-o wrestling, or even – dare I say? – the minor woes of the Delta, every man wanted to accomplish the same goal in working towards the preservation of Sigma Phi for future Brothers. Their loyalty brought them there, and it was their loyalty that kept them there until 6pm ... barely an hour before the banquet was to begin! Jokes aside, it was really a treat to be on the other side.

As has been the case in recent years, Don Twiss S'60, Derek Frederickson V'94, Alvar Soosaar S'96, and Ryan Delaney G'99 put out the word among their constituencies, helping to organize a fantastic affair that brought together alumni from every chapter with living alumni. A number of active Brothers from Vermont, Virginia and Cornell attended as well, including an Epsilon Sig who had been swung only days earlier. When all was said and done, around fifty Sigs were in attendance.

Andre Jaeckle C'71 served as Toastmaster Extraordinaire, and we were amused and touched by a number of stories and toasts from a variety of Sigs. Dave Williams W'61 reminisced about Woody Sayre W'36 (see page 7), who recently passed away, and was followed by Frank Mead C'56. In another indication of the Ties That Bind, Frank mentioned that his wife, Penny, was related by marriage to Woody. This coincidence – though unplanned by the organizers of the event – was warmly received. Bob



Mersereau M'74 (see page 4), kicked off the various toasts with a humorous one about some Virginia Sigs he knew in college, and Scott McCrae V'82, helped wrap up the toasts on a more somber and touching note. Invoking his prerogative as oldest Vermont Sig present, Scott gave the Benedict toast in honor of the unforgettable Chet Eaton V'30, who passed away nearly a year ago but is still sorely missed.

All in all, the Society's '03 Flagship Banquet was a grand affair and a remarkable tribute to the founding of our Society. ■



Jim Jenkins S'58 (left), and Pete Harter G'65



Hugh Leoni G'99, Alvar Soosaar S'96, Brett Pertuz S'92, Dave Messler U'93 and Eric Sharfstein U'93 pose for a picture at the Flagship Banquet

## Sigma Phi

The Sigma Phi Society publishes the *Sigma Phi Flame* twice yearly. Please direct all inquiries, suggestions, photos and changes of address to Sigma Phi National Headquarters, PO Box 4633, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-4633.

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# Chairman's Message

by Jim Jenkins S'58

**R**epresentatives from all active and alumni chapters of the Society gathered in New York City on Saturday, March 1. In a meeting that lasted throughout the day (adjourning just in time to prepare for the March 4th Flagship Dinner), we worked together to make decisions that – with your support – will help insure the perpetuation of our Sig brotherhood. Briefly, I would like to touch on some of the more important matters we discussed.

We appear close to concluding the long-running litigation with Hamilton College over a fair price for the Beta's Chapter House. The agreement has been approved by both the National and the Beta's Alumni Board. What remains is for the Beta's alumni membership to approve the settlement. I report with pride that the Sig flame at the Beta continues to flourish as a bright beacon in the constellation of Sigma Phi even without the benefit of a physical house structure.

Last fall, I announced that we had been able to renew our national insurance plan with Lloyd's of London. This policy will provide coverage until November 1, 2003. Prior to that date, our Insurance Committee, under the chairmanship of Marshall Solem F'79, will have at least one and possibly two competitive quotes. While this will allow us the benefit of knowing what options are available, it's hard to be optimistic that we'll discover significant premium savings in this difficult insurance market. Importantly, though, for the first time ever, we will have competitively "shopped" available liability coverage.

In the meantime, I hope you will take every opportunity to counsel with your active Brothers to act safely in the operation of your house and abide by our Risk Management Policy. Clearly, low claim experience will be a key factor in obtaining more affordable rates.

Expansion was also discussed in New York. Vice Chairman Solem reported on a visit made to the campus of James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, about an hour's drive from UVA. The fraternities at JMU do not have houses but are assigned their own dorm complex. A 5-year lease commitment of the national organization is presently required for a fraternity wishing to colonize at this school. This factor and other conditions prevent us from going forward at JMU. However, with the Virginia Chapter

now planning to celebrate its 50th anniversary, we need to direct more efforts to this cause. In addition, much of our financial resources are presently committed in support of current chapters. Relief will be close at hand as these chapters resolve their present difficulties. This will free resources that will enhance our ability to take advantage of expansion opportunities. Dan Neumann F'71 and Hugh Leoni G'99 have volunteered to work toward expansion and I also plan to become actively involved.

The administration of our Society requires more work and effort than you might realize. What goes into such administration, you might ask. Keeping records current and tracking the addresses of 1000s of mobile Sigs. Preparing and editing articles supporting twice yearly *'Flames'*. Maintaining a timely, informative website. Coaching and counseling the nine chapters in person and by other means to assist them in overcoming problems. Organizing conventions with their associated undergraduate leadership training conferences.

In view of these ongoing, legitimate administrative demands, the S&A Committee has proposed an evaluation of the way we have structured our national organization. While General Secretary Derek Fredrickson V'94 has done a wonderful job, a review of the long list of his duties has made it clear that the many responsibilities of this volunteer office need to be shared with others. As a first step, the S&A has authorized that the publication of the Flame be under the supervision of an Editor/Publications Secretary. I am happy to report that two experienced and dedicated individuals, Mike Imirie M'69 and Alvar Soosaar S'96 have stepped up and agreed to collaborate on this work. Together, they will organize and publish the 2003 spring and fall *'Flames'* issues. Thank you, gentlemen.

Derek will continue as Secretary and will handle website maintenance and development, among other duties. A review will also be made as to how our outside agency, Gilchrist, can be of greater at-large assistance. A part of our study will include evaluating the costs associated with our present hybrid administrative system as compared to the previous position of a compensated General Secretary. Such evaluation will insure that we 1) conduct the affairs of the Society in as cost effective a way as possible,

2) provide strong nurture to our individual chapters and 3) help to keep Sig alumni connected and informed about each other and Sigma Phi.

Incidentally, if you might be wondering what Derek

will be doing with time freed by these changes, he and Fabienne are now parents; their daughter, Claire, was born in early March.

You have a very important role in the life of this Society. First, of course, is the support you provide your local chapter. Your personal participation with actives at chapter events and your financial backing will help insure Sig vigor in personal and powerful ways. But your national also needs your support and it needs it in a very serious way. For 2002, approximately 12% of our alumni answered our request for dues and supplemental contributions. While over the last 12 years the number supporting Sig dues drives has averaged just over 15 %, it has been as high as 19%. As measured against other fraternities, we have a high rate of participation but our overall numbers are small. Consequently, to meet operating expenses without eroding our endowment, we would need twice the current participation levels.

Along with other officers and S&A delegates and Committee members, I am enthusiastically working in support of Sigma Phi. But no group of leaders, no matter how committed, will be effective without your support. Therefore, please use the enclosed notice and response envelope to mail your dues and perhaps even an additional contribution to the Society. If you cannot send a check in full payment, please send as much as you can *now*....for any amount will be appreciated. As we all heard so clearly and so convincingly in a darkened room many years ago, the future of this Society.....*"depends, my Brother, upon you..."*

For the entire Sigma Phi Brotherhood, I thank you for your ongoing interest and support. ■



Jim Jenkins S'58

# Thank You to All Who Contributed This Year to the Sigma Phi Society

The following Brothers donated during 2002 to the Sigma Phi Society and/or to Sigma Phi's Permanent Endowment Fund (PEF):

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 Fredric F. Ehle F'57  
 John W. Chandler Jr. F'59  
 Leif R. Salvesen F'60  
 Thomas M. Lockney F'64  
 Thomas Mackie Jr. F'65  
 Lawrence L. McBee Jr. F'65  
 A. John McSweeney F'65  
 James H. Haberstroh F'67  
 Patrick R. Pollock F'67  
 Perry V. Olson F'68  
 Donald M. Condon Jr. F'69  
 Michael Dalmat F'69  
 George L. Gfall F'69  
 Daniel Goodman F'69  
 Robert Oeflein F'69  
 Mark L. Tomczak MD F'69  
 William D. Mills F'70  
 Samuel L. Moore F'70  
 Frederick M. Lamont F'72  
 Scott B. Miller MD F'73  
 Charles E. Schmeling F'75  
 James R. Behrend F'76  
 John D. Hall F'76  
 Brian S. Fiedler MD F'77  
 David R. Thai Keith F'78  
 Christopher J. Knuth F'78  
 Jay Ralph F'78  
 Mark T. Bolens F'79  
 William Bush F'79  
 Marshall C. Solem F'79  
 Theodore P. Briski Jr. F'80  
 John B. Morley F'80
- Michael J. Reiels F'80  
 Steven J. Scharfenberg F'80  
 John H. Helm F'81  
 David G. Pocost F'81  
 Sheldon W. Woldt F'81  
 John P. Reiels F'82  
 Eric W. Koch F'83  
 David Strasburg F'85  
 Steven J. Winkel F'85  
 Frank J. Demeter Jr. F'86  
 Scott J. Keipper F'86  
 Paul D. Waugh F'86  
 Robert W. Stern F'87  
 Scott W. Tarmann F'87  
 Samuel E. Wuest F'88  
 Patrick J. O'Connell F'89  
 Gregory Knight Smith F'89  
 John A. Schlick F'90  
 Cory Zignego F'90  
 Eric Joseph Zorn F'90  
 Kyle Siettmann F'91  
 Marshall Norseng F'93  
 Daniel Mantey F'94  
 Joel C. Moser F'94  
 Matthew Boylan F'96  
 Steven M. Curtis F'96  
 Leonard P. Gottesman F'96  
 Gregory D. Eisenmenger F'97  
 Scott Hekel F'97  
 Jussi Hermunen F'97  
 Bradley R. Zingler F'97  
 Theodore A. Dungan I'28  
 Bernard T. Rocca Jr. I'34  
 Benjamin G. Taylor Jr. I'36  
 Joseph Curtis Tyler Jr. I'36  
 Lee E. Ham I'38  
 Jay M. Jacobus I'40  
 John K. Ballantine I'42  
 John Buckham I'42  
 Russell F. Fiddymnt Jr. I'42  
 Robert B. Shaw I'42  
 Herbert B. Towler I'42  
 William W. Vosper I'42  
 Peter E. Yankwich I'42  
 William B. Rogers I'43  
 Heber H. Smith Jr. I'43  
 William T. Waste I'43  
 Thomas A. Curtis I'44  
 Harry A. Cuthbertson Jr. I'44
- Everett E. Fuller I'44  
 Wendell A. Hutchinson Jr. I'44  
 Roy Wilbur Melbye MD I'45  
 Thomas P. Shaw I'45  
 Glen A. Phillips I'46  
 J. Dwight Wilson I'46  
 William W. Wilson I'46  
 V. Neil Fulton I'48  
 Thomas B. Adams I'49  
 Richard E. Glenn Jr. I'49  
 Philip L. Wyche Jr. I'49  
 Edgar R. Dethlefsen I'50  
 Glenn Gulvin I'50  
 Ottiwel W. Jones III I'50  
 Q. Noack Jr. I'51  
 Richard B. Melbye I'52  
 Thomas Osborne I'52  
 John M. Brough I'53  
 John Brideson I'55  
 Stephen Graves I'55  
 Michael F. Toomey I'55  
 W. Timothy Ryan I'56  
 Walter J. Fogarty Jr. I'58  
 David D. Nolan I'58  
 Timothy Buckendorf I'59  
 Robert P. Harshberger Jr. I'59  
 Michael H. Cheney I'62  
 Harvey H. Boysen Jr. I'65  
 Roger Graham I'68  
 Christopher D. Zwingle I'68  
 Graham D.V. Chloupek I'69  
 J. Russell Joy I'69  
 Roland H. Isaak I'70  
 Jon Riewerts I'70  
 Edward R. Bosley III I'73  
 Douglas W. Gester I'73  
 Scott B. Sinclair I'74  
 Richard E. Pawson I'77  
 Daniel L. McNear I'78  
 Joel Shumaker I'80  
 Andrius Kontrimas I'81  
 David R. Munroe I'86  
 Moses Cesario I'89  
 Cyrus Harmon I'89  
 David J. Gerber I'93  
 Doniel Winter I'94  
 Patrick J. Brill S'53  
 John W. Foster S'53  
 Jay A. Lipe S'53
- John E. Connelly III S'54  
 Calhoun L. H. Howard S'54  
 William H. Poarch S'54  
 Douglas W. Brown III S'55  
 A. Claude Kemper S'56  
 Robert E. Belknap III S'57  
 Willard C. Agee S'58  
 James L. Jenkins S'58  
 Paul Holden Becker S'60  
 Donald L. Twiss S'60  
 Godfrey M. Long Jr. S'61  
 Henry C. Wheelwright S'61  
 Michael T. Jackson S'62  
 Robert L. Bradshaw Jr. S'63  
 Joseph F. Kent III S'63  
 Michael L. Laughlin S'63  
 Michael K. Fox S'64  
 Lawrence O. Holmberg Jr. S'65  
 W. Kim Love S'65  
 Craig E. Buck S'67  
 David H. Drake S'67  
 B. Thomas Reams S'67  
 Homer M. Sandridgen S'67  
 Timothy E. Nagle S'68  
 Charles C. Townsend III S'68  
 Joseph G. Murray S'69  
 Henry U. Harris III S'71  
 Christopher J. Wronsky S'72  
 Thomas H. Bishop S'73  
 Thaddeus S. Logan III S'75  
 Jack L. Rubin S'75  
 Raymond E. Boehling Jr. S'76  
 Bryan M. Eagle III S'77  
 Laurent C. Leblin S'77  
 George P. Nowlen III S'83  
 Michael P. O'Bresly S'83  
 David B. Lackey Jr. S'84  
 P. Marcus Simpson S'84  
 Mark B. Holland S'86  
 Jean-Paul LaFleur S'87  
 Richard A. Mills S'87  
 Andrew P. Skotdal S'90  
 Marcus R. Pollard S'91  
 Jeremy J. Eichler S'94  
 Dennis W. Pike III S'94  
 Alvar Soosaar S'96  
 Patrick B. Bryan S'97  
 Daniel Blakewood S'98  
 Philip Lipscomb S'98

## Missing Brothers

*If you have any information about these missing Brothers, please call 919-929-7070 or e-mail [signaphi@signaphi.org](mailto:signaphi@signaphi.org).*

G. J. Birdsall U'15	Mauro Castro H'98	Volker Spichal V'88	Larry Nelson F'74
Norman W. Diedrich U'37	Riley L. Fenner H'98	Graham Torrey V'93	Charles Heisinger Jr. F'76
Frederick W. Reindel U'49	Frank R. Wallace Jr. W'34	Nathaniel Bordin Sillin V'99	Patrick Hagen F'81
James Magee Jr. U'53	Robert Crane Jr. W'40	Thomas Aigler M'38	Peter Strupp F'82
Peter Stearns U'59	Earl Henderson Jr. W'50	David Cortez M'93	Steven Brandenburg F'84
Thomas Peterson U'79	Joseph Powell III W'52	Bryan J. Huebner L'69	Bradford Colbert III F'91
Steven Savad U'86	William Taylor G'51	David L. Campbell L'70	Douglas J. Norton F'91
Andrew Davis U'91	Jeffrey Burgess G'76	Eric H. Carlstedt L'71	Richard Glinski F'96
Andrew Pirich U'91	Donald S. Parker V'33	Lee Clementi L'79	Paul Denkmann F'98
Christopher M. Forster U'92	Frank Brown V'58	Joseph S. Carpenter L'91	John E. Gill S'57
Martin Logan U'93	C. Reynolds Brown V'67	Robert E. Dellinger Jr. L'91	Marc P. Lefar S'83
Samuel Berger U'95	Michael Hoyt V'78	Amr Khani L'92	Tucker Waldruff S'91
Franklin Ely Jr. H'32	Charles R. Boyce II V'79	Jeffrey H. Thorn I'94	Glenn Patteson S'99
Brooks Boveroux H'62	Michael Wolbach V'79	Peter Parnall C'55	Mitchell Carlson S'00
Michael D. Hamilton H'88	Craig D. Ballard V'82	Justin E. Lifflander C'84	Paul Duatschek S'00
John Reilly H'92	Kai J. Figwer V'83	Matthew C. Zucker C'89	Kyle Ernest S'00
John Riordan H'93	Steven J. Halls V'83	Ross Foltz F'42	Mitchell Maddox S'00
Timothy Ryan H'94	Kenneth R. Ballard V'84	John McCrory F'51	Patrick McCarty S'00
Jeremy P. Sokolnicki H'95	John Sanders Jr. V'87	Robert A. Kurtmacker F'63	Stephen Nielson S'00

# March 4 at Michigan

by Bob Mersereau M'74

The Alpha of Michigan held its Fourth of March Banquet at The Michigan League in Ann Arbor on March 8th. Banquet Chair Hal O'Kray M'66 gathered 40+ Sigs, Sig Sisters, Pledges and guests. Master of Ceremonies Bob Mersereau M'74 introduced keynote speaker Jeff Smith M'76, who stirred all present with his discussion of Friendship, Love and Truth. (Pictures of the banquet are available on the Society's web site — [www.sigmaphi.org](http://www.sigmaphi.org).)

The highlight of the day was the initiation of four new Sig Sisters (see photo below). Two actives and two alums brought one wife (mine), one fiancée, and two sweethearts into the bonds. George Mercer M'69

#### New Michigan Sig Sisters and Escorts:

Adrienne Barclay MSS'03, Edward Freiwald M'00, Karyn Ledbetter MSS'03, Josh Dziurlikowski M'00, Casia Augustine MSS'03, Andrew Augustine M'99, Donnell Snite Mersereau MSS'03, and Bob Mersereau M'74

#### New Union Sig Sisters and Escorts:

Brian Roache U'97, Julie Williams USS'03, Lauren Steinman USS'03, Heath Levine U'97, Sarah McKinley USS'03, Ryan McKinley U'95, Jen Kendall USS'03, and John Winters U'96

and his Sig Sister and wife Connie led the time-honored ceremony, while a fine collection of actives, alums and other Sig Sisters participated.

As evidenced by the Spirit present at our events, the Alpha of Michigan is on its way back to health. Michigan has suffered from low membership and the attendant failure to meet expenses for the past several years. Fortunately, five pledges are currently being schooled in the ways of the Thrice Illustrious. They will be initiated some time in April. Consult the website for the exact date.

Thanks to a loan from the national organization, all past due property taxes have been paid. Thanks to financial contributions by Ann Arbor alumni and the physical contributions of actives and alumni, many repairs have been made and the house at 907 Lincoln is in good shape. In order to insure positive cash flow, the Alumni Board has engaged a property management firm to market next year's unoccupied rooms to boarders.

I believe that a successful rush next fall will secure the future of the Alpha of Michigan. ■



The 13 new Sig Sisters of the Beta of NY Giving a Toast at the recent 4th of March Banquet at the historic Hotel Utica



# SPEF Seeks Educational Grant Applications

by Jim Cole S'87

**T**he newly invigorated Sigma Phi Educational Foundation ("SPEF") is seeking applications to support educational programs. The activities of the SPEF include the making of grants to support educational programs associated with Sigma Phi and its graduate and undergraduate members. As a charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (with contributions to the SPEF being generally tax-deductible to the contributor!), the SPEF must make a certain amount of grants every year.

Usually, these grants have come in the form of underwriting the educational/leadership programs offered at Convention to the active brotherhood, but in the past year the SPEF has branched out and has granted

requests submitted by Brothers looking for funding for other educational programs, and is currently accepting applications for future grants. Awards for the last year have included monies for historical research and the sponsorship of an undergraduate professor dinner and lecture series. While there are IRS limitations on the types of programs that can be supported by the SPEF, individuals and undergraduate chapters are encouraged to seek funds for efforts that are educationally oriented.

The SPEF Board of Directors is composed of each Sigma Phi Chapter's Alumni Corporation President or his designee. The Board has appointed a "Grant Committee" to solicit, evaluate, and award grant monies on an annual basis. The Grant Committee is

currently composed of David Munroe I'86, Dan Mansoor C'76, and Jim Cole S'87.

A request for a grant should include the identity of the grant applicant and an explanation of the program or event for which the money is requested. The description of the educational value produced by the grant amount is most important. Recent grant amounts have ranged from a few hundred to a few thousand dollars.

Applicants should specify the amount requested and may wish to put lesser alternate amounts with varying descriptions of resulting programs associated with each funding level. You should send grant applications to the attention of Sigma Phi Educational Foundation at the standard Sigma Phi Society mailing address. ■

## Thank You for Your Support of the Foundation!

**T**he Sigma Phi Educational Foundation has provided financial support to hundreds of undergraduate Brothers over the past decade. In some cases, thanks to designated chapter scholarship funds, individual members have been able to continue their college education. For

other young men, these funds provide an opportunity to expand and develop valuable leadership skills. The following Brothers have helped to make all of this possible through their generous donations. We encourage all alumni to use the form enclosed with this newsletter to make your

tax-deductible gift to the SPEF.

And please consider including the Sigma Phi Educational Foundation in your estate planning. More information is available through the Sigma Phi National Headquarters office, at Box 4633, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-4633. ■

A. Roland Will U'41  
 Alvin Volkman MD U'45  
 H. Peters Strong U'48  
 Jackson Goddard U'54  
 Howard G. Carpenter Jr. U'58  
 Peter K. Smith U'67  
 Richard Thickers U'70  
 John C. Rosko U'72  
 Keith F. Donahue U'84  
 Mark Jaffe U'84  
 Samuel M. Schneider U'90  
 Richard S. Allen H'36  
 Charles T. Bates H'50  
 George L. Boveroux Jr. H'53  
 William T. McKay II H'60  
 Tom S. Ward Jr. H'63  
 Brendan J. McCurdy H'80  
 Jean Fraser Gruss H'86  
 James V. Grant H'97  
 Henry F. Slingerland W'35  
 Robert S. Schultz III W'38  
 H. Thomas Dodds MD W'57  
 Robert M. Pyle Jr. W'57  
 David A. Williams W'61  
 Peter D. Hutcheon W'62  
 Charles P. Boswell II G'47  
 W. W. Woods Davis G'56  
 Peter R. VanBrunt G'59  
 Louis Allen Carmichael G'66

John R. Pearson Jr. G'73  
 Frank T. Sindoni G'84  
 Jason A. Ryan G'95  
 Phelps F. Pond V'33  
 Philip D. Eisenwinter V'40  
 Rudolph H. Kempter V'41  
 Stephen G. Moore V'41  
 H. Scott Johnson V'60  
 J. Robert Tank V'60  
 John B. Meyer V'63  
 Richard H. Miller V'66  
 David Ullman MD V'76  
 Timothy F. Anderson V'79  
 James M. Hansen V'80  
 John F. Melita V'82  
 Stephen B. Penwell V'82  
 William G. Lawrence II V'86  
 John J. Sweeney III V'86  
 Phillip J. Prather V'87  
 Michael R. Blanchard V'88  
 H. Aaron Parekh V'88  
 Derek R. Fredrickson V'94  
 Jeffrey Michael Coyne V'97  
 Willard J. Ball M'32  
 Thomas S. Grier M'42  
 Morton M. Charnley Jr. M'43  
 Richard A. Rehms M'43  
 Robert B. Mersereau M'48  
 Melvin Gay DDS M'56  
 Stephan Morse M'64

David Hamm MD M'65  
 David W. Pauls M'65  
 George D. Mercer M'68  
 Jeffrey K. Seigle M'76  
 Robert E. Tuoriniemi M'77  
 Michael Gordon M'80  
 Stephen VanMeter M'80  
 Michael Twigg M'84  
 James G. Brown L'54  
 Gerald A. Feffer L'61  
 Frederick C. Mueller L'61  
 Richard S. Dorer L'66  
 Douglas H. Pace L'68  
 Gary E. Krutul L'74  
 William D. Brennan L'78  
 Robert Christop Pisano L'94  
 Edward Sanderson C'22  
 Robert A. Barrows C'37  
 Richard E. Ford C'39  
 Robert P. Turner C'39  
 Gordon Kiddoo C'40  
 J. William Ekegren Jr. C'41  
 Nathaniel R. Bowditch C'52  
 Nelson T. Joyner Jr. C'56  
 Jules Labarthe Jr. C'56  
 Franklin B. Mead III C'56  
 Frederick D. Bloom C'57  
 Peter T. Flynn C'66  
 Daniel J Mansoor C'76  
 Glenn R. George C'82

James L. Reed Jr. C'86  
 Christopher K. Kete C'91  
 Robert L. Berstein C'94  
 William O. Schilling F'32  
 Bruce E. Douglass F'35  
 John S. Bickley F'36  
 John Sawyers Meek F'38  
 Milton K. Woodhouse F'38  
 Louis F. Reuter F'39  
 Gilbert H. Stannard MD F'41  
 Jackson R. Horton F'49  
 Jack R. Harned F'51  
 Richard J. Saari F'54  
 Philip G. Henderson F'55  
 Fredric F. Ehle F'57  
 Thomas M. Lockney F'64  
 Daniel Goodman F'69  
 William D. Mills F'70  
 Samuel L. Moore F'70  
 Daniel P. Neumann F'71  
 Frederick M. Lamont F'72  
 Brian S. Fiedler MD F'77  
 Christopher J. Knuth F'78  
 Steven J. Winkel F'85  
 Scott W. Tarmann F'87  
 Gregory Knight Smith F'89  
 Kyle Siettmann F'91  
 Benjamin G. Taylor Jr. I'36  
 Joseph Curtis Tyler Jr. I'36  
 John Buckham I'42

Russell F. Fiddymnt Jr. I'42  
 Herbert B. Towler I'42  
 Peter E. Yankwich I'42  
 Heber H. Smith Jr. I'43  
 Wendell A. Hutchinson Jr. I'44  
 Richard B. Melbye I'52  
 Richard Bruce I'68  
 Graham D.V. Chloupek I'69  
 Roland H. Isaak I'70  
 Clifford E. Graffuis I'71  
 Edward R. Bosley III I'73  
 Scott B. Sinclair I'74  
 Daniel L. McNear I'78  
 Moses Cesario I'89  
 Cyrus Harmon I'89  
 Stephen Nielson S'00  
 Patrick J. Brill S'53  
 Jay A. Lipe S'53  
 A. Claude Kemper S'56  
 Willard C. Agee S'58  
 James L. Jenkins S'58  
 Michael K. Fox S'64  
 Frederick W. Gaertner S'68  
 Robert B. Deans III S'74  
 Bryan M. Eagle III S'77  
 William B. Buchanan Jr. S'78  
 George P. Nowlin III S'83  
 David B. Lackey Jr. S'84  
 Richard A. Mills S'87

# Elusive: Balance at Sigma Phi

by Bill Cohen F'90

**F**or the first time in nearly a decade, my pledge class attended a Madison initiation where six new Brothers were initiated. The initiation process was one of the best in recent memory and attendance was great. Not outstanding, mind you, but certainly a lot better than others. From start to finish, the initiation process was meaningful, fun and positive. Having many of my best friends in attendance made the weekend.

About my pledge class...I was a 24-year-old graduate student and my pledge Brothers were... somewhat younger. I watched them grow from adolescents into very capable men. Since then, I've delighted in tracking their lives through letters, e-mails, and occasional phone calls. When we can all attend a Sigma Phi event, it's a time to celebrate friendship, plain and simple.

Whenever I return to the Alpha, a flood of good memories follows: memories of times and events that shaped my life, added meaning, and changed my views of the world. Sigma Phi provided me with deep friendships around the globe and I seek to reinforce these relationships as best I can, whenever I can. My Sig friendships are heat-tempered. They are strong and don't require constant attention. I can pick up with Brothers after years of being apart and not skip a beat. Being a Sig does not mean all-out commitment to the Society. For me, it has always meant a consistent and unassailable commitment to my friends. The Society is a medium to life-long friendship; it's not a day-in, day-out obligation.

The last several years have been difficult at Wisconsin. We've experienced ebb and

flow in membership, participation, attitude, and interest. Sometimes when we take a good, hard look we don't like what we see. That spurs us to action. Action may lead to re-discovery of the ideals that actually bonded us to the Society in the first place. Financially, the House is in trouble more than we care to admit. Alumni have asked why they were never informed of the crisis. Actives have felt burdened and frustrated. I've asked myself over and over, "How could this have happened on my watch?" I believe that an answer lies in our imbalanced relationships with the Society.

What do I mean? In Madison, lack of action has caused problems. Problems have spurred us to action. Action has led to alumni discovering a core of individuals who are exactly like *they were* as actives. There are some super guys at the Alpha right now. Over the course of the last six months, a groundswell of involvement from younger alumni has replaced grumbling. Sig alumni sense that this life-enhancing experience called the Thrice Illustrious is not at all a certainty for the next pledge class, concluding that their personal involvement is actually required to preserve our cherished fraternity. The wake-up call is simple: Sigma Phi does not continue to exist just because we hope it will or say it will. It exists because we demand that it must. Without the demand – without our personal participation – it will assuredly lapse.

It is imbalanced to be fully involved in the Society...and then never involved...and then shocked back into participation. Our challenge is to stay at least peripherally involved, consistently involved, but not nec-

essarily overly involved. The statistics aren't lying. The general alumni brotherhood is not pulling its weight. Being involved doesn't mean that you have to become alumni board president. It might mean that you could call some of your pledge brothers and other Sig friends and find a way to attend an event, meet some of the younger guys, and plan to meet at the next initiation. It could mean mentoring an active, providing a contact, or just stopping by for dinner. It could mean being the person who introduces himself to a young active and says, "Let me tell you something very cool about this Society you joined."

When we are pledges and then new initiates, it is such a hopeful time, full of fantastic adventures. Among many roles, the Sigma Phi offers a surrogate family. We have to remember that our actives are great young men, but barely out of adolescence in many cases. We cannot expect them to know everything and behave the way we want them to behave all of the time. They both need and want capable guidance, but not too much guidance. Our actives are smart; with some gentle alumni enabling, they will achieve great things. Left to their own interpretations of "how it is done at the Sigma Phi", our oral and written traditions tend to veer off course. But I find that actives are extremely receptive to and appreciative of gentle alumni guidance. And it's key that alumni not sit around waiting to be asked. We've got to offer the help – offer the stakeholder viewpoint - again and again.

I'll speculate that we have continuity problems like these throughout the Sigma Phi Society. We talk a lot about our Society providing what other fraternal orders only dream of achieving—and yet our alumni participation continues to decline. In too many cases, a few diehards take care of business, hoping that others will step up and take personal initiative. Stalwart alumni have done their time – and continue to do so – most generously, but other grads must become Sig leaders.

The Wisconsin chapter has long been known for its fantastic active/alumni relationships. This tradition is one of my fondest memories of my time in the Society. Who were these Old Guys always helping out? Of course, I now realize that many of these "old guys" were simply in their late 30's and mid 40's! *Continued on page 9*



Wisconsin Brothers Back for a Swing



# From Where I Sit

by Alvar Soosaar S'96

I'm a young Sig as Sigs go. Hairline aside, I look and probably act the 28 years old that I am. In terms of affiliation with the Society, I have merely been around for seven or eight years. One thing that has stuck in the back of my mind throughout that time, starting from the day I received my *Catalogue*, is the question of why we are such a small fraternity.

With the pending 50th anniversary of the founding of my own Virginia chapter, that thought has come to the forefront of late. As the Chairman mentions in his letter (see page 3), the Virginia chapter – *at 50!* – is the youngest sister of our band. In the last 35 years, however, we have lost Williams and Lehigh, and many of our chapters have seen better years.

The issue of expansion engenders many points of view among Sigs. Some argue that, given the illustrious history of our chapters, we should prop up our ailing chapters and focus our energies in preservation. Others say that, when circumstances dictate, we should “cut bait and run”, looking for better opportunities elsewhere.

Certainly we fight an uphill battle on some campuses. Lehigh disappeared as much because of an increasingly hostile university administration as anything else. Hamilton College and Union College are not known for having particularly good relationships with their Greek communities. At best, those schools are attempting to redefine fraternities on their respective campuses.

Hostile head winds such as these hurt. Perhaps Sigma Phi will have to adapt to the new situations, and such an adaptation has already begun at Hamilton. The chapter is as strong as ever, and no current undergraduates had ever had a live-in experience! At Union (see lead article), the alumni corporation has purchased a small house across the street from campus. It's likely that the new Sigma Phi Place will be used exclusively as a meet-

ing place, in much the same way as the original Pepperbox was used.

Where necessary, adaptive Sig strategies like these should be encouraged. Unless we are faced with a fundamental challenge to our ideals and/or practices by a hostile University – e.g., “total opportunity rushing” at Williams in the 1960s – we should be able to find a way to roll with the punches. Sigma Phi's remarkable 176-year history in part reflects an ability to change with the times.

At the end of the day, though, we are going to have to add chapters.

In researching this editorial, I remembered conversations I'd had with Ted Bosley I'73 and the late Dave Brown S'70, the two most active members of our last expansion committee. It seems that both the University of Southern California and Tulane University were sounded out about establishing chapter in the 1990s. Tulane in particular appeared promising. It's a Southern campus with a largely Northern student body, it had a decent-sized Sig alumni population in the area, and the son of a Sig was starting his first year there and was willing to serve as the touchstone for a new chapter. However, due to scandals at the time involving Greek organizations, Tulane's administration was not positively inclined towards a new fraternity chapter.

There were attempts to colonize at Virginia Tech in the 1960s, but these, too, ultimately led nowhere. Just a couple of years ago, also in Virginia, a group of approximately 10 students at James Madison University approached the Society about starting a chapter there. Vice Chairman Marshall Solem F'79 and I went down there to talk to these young men and were impressed. The administrators that we met with were also impressive in their clear support for the Greek system. Issues arose, however, with housing arrangements; the bottom line was

that Sigma Phi would have to shell out a good bit of money to move the chapter to a point where it would be recognized by the administration, which seeks out fraternities with an average membership of 45-50 rather than our more typical 30-35 size.

Going forward, an expansion committee under the leadership of Dan Neumann F'71 and Hugh Leoni G'99 (see article page 2) will seek out opportunities elsewhere. The University of North Carolina offers strong options, whether through establishment of a de novo chapter or the takeover of an existing independent club or fraternity, something Sigma Phi has done at least a few times in its past. The University of Illinois also should be considered.

The Northeast should be avoided for the most part, I'm afraid; anti-fraternity activism is at its highest up here. But the Midwest, the South and perhaps the West offer some intriguing possibilities. Every few months, a group of interested students at one university or another contacts the Society. Some come from schools where we cannot hope to compete – some of the big state universities with average chapter sizes closer to 100 than to our own ideal 20 – and some from schools that are simply not of the same caliber as today's Sig host colleges and universities. That sounds elitist – it *is* to a certain extent – but we need to maintain the quality of our Brothers while ensuring the future of the Society.

As we consider the future of Sigma Phi, I understand that expansion is not the only answer. I grow in the conviction that it's a vital key, however: one that we've perhaps let lie dormant for too long. ■



*continued from page 8* Not so old by my accounts now! I just read a fascinating article about longevity that insists one of the keys to a healthy, longer life, is creating friendships with young people. The benefits of strong alumni/active relations may be more far-reaching than we know!

In Madison, a call has gone out to our younger alumni. Who will answer? I think that this call scares some. With growing

families and important jobs, it is easy to have zero discretionary time. To make matters more acute, interested alumni probably worry that saying ‘yes’ to a leadership stint today might result in never-ending commitment...and never-ending leadership terms. We must allay this fear in order to increase alumni involvement. Sig leadership roles should be for truly limited terms and alumni groups should pay careful attention

to succession planning. Interested alumni should gravitate toward roles they'll find fun and enriching even if it calls on a different skill set.

The real call, of course, is about being a part of the Society's time-honored active/alumni milieu. That is the place where formative, evergreen memories have been created for generations - of an organization which uniquely shapes and enhances our lives. ■

# Epsilon to Help Pioneer Chapters of Excellence

by Jon Overdeest C'01

**T**his past semester, the Epsilon was nominated to become one of nine fraternities, sororities, and living units participating in the newly formed Chapters of Excellence Program (CoE) at Cornell. CoE is a pilot program which stands to add more significant elements of cultural, educational, and social awareness to those involved with the Greek system.

In order to accomplish this renaissance, a Chapter Services Director has been hired by the University to chair a committee composed of two individuals from each participating chapter. This new Director will act as a leader, coordinator, and mentor; he'll respond specifically to the needs of pilot chapters during this transition.

The CoE Program begins next semester,

and the actives of the Epsilon stand poised to offer their initiative and efforts to make this ground-breaking program a success. Currently, Brothers hold bi-weekly brainstorming sessions to determine what activities and events they feel would serve as beneficial supplements to our existing programming. Following the focus of the CoE Program, core activities will address culture, intellect, recreation, service, careers, and leadership development.

Among others, these supporting events have been brainstormed by the task force: hosting a jazz night, late night café, an art opening, organizing a dinner speaker series, diversity dialogue discussions, participating in an outdoor education course, sponsoring an alumni networking luncheon, resume

workshops, and establishing an annual concert to benefit local charities.

Although individual houses could manage many of these activities, what will set CoE-sponsored events apart is their detailed planning and grand scale. In addition, each will be supported by the members of the nine selected fraternities, sororities, and living units, who stand to be an extremely influential unit on campus. With its aggregate membership of over 500 students, it is evident that the Chapters of Excellence Program has a strong foundation and the capability to have a beneficial impact on the Cornell campus as well as in the Ithaca community. At Epsilon of New York, we are pleased to have a part. ■

## New Brothers and Sig Sisters



### Union — Fall Initiates:

Daniel Patrick Archibald	Cheshire, CT
Charles Eagle Bechtel	Providence, RI
Jesse Young Bye	Altamont, NY
Eric Otto Martinson	Weymouth, MA
Kyle James Matis	Wilbraham, MA
Charles Aldrich Potter	Millbrook, NY
Rakesh Ramakrishnan	Rutherford, NJ
Elliot Douglas Sequin	East Lansing, MI
Alexander Shevchenko	Ridgewood, NJ
Andrew John Sparkes	West Hartford, CT
Jonathon Charles Wolf Stepro	Manchester, NH
Grant Stephen Van DerBeken	Bedford, NH
David Richard Van Houte	Pittsford, NY

NAME	SIG SISTERS - March	SPONSOR
Julie Williams	Brian Roache U'97	
Lauren Steinman	Heath Levine U'97	
Sarah McKinley	Ryan McKinley U'95	
Ken Kendall	John Winters U'96	

### Hamilton — Fall Initiates: none

Spring Swing is first weekend of May

NAME	SIG SISTERS - March	SPONSOR
Katherine Estelle Guthem	Cameron Boyd Johnson H'00	
Lauren Helene Goldblatt	Mark Giancarlo DeVito H'00	
Morgan Denise Miller	Thomas Murphy Keane H'01	
Kristine Marjorie Overholt Bellona	Jon Paul Bellona H'00	
Catherine Dyanne Kashner	Jon Paul Bellona H'00	
Brianne Joy Kanehl	Frederick Kepler Jones H'00	
Mollie Elizabeth Gardner	William McKnight Gardiner H'01	
Mary Cathleen Farnsworth	John Adam McKay H'00	
Melissa Rae Stillman	Daniel Patrick Egan H'01	
Sara Elizabeth Barnes Roitman	Timothy Croft Gershon H'01	
Cara Cortell Chard	Neil John Thompson H'00	
Nichola Christine Meserve	Ian Matthew Lawson H'01	
Isabelle Ezrati	Johnathan Woodrow Havens H'00	

### Hobart — Fall Initiates:

Alexander Aronson	Chester, NJ
Arie Berenson	Providence, RI
David Breunner	Glen Head, NY
Coleman Curry	London, England

Matthew Diana	Baltimore, MD
Peter Ebling	Montclair, NJ
Jordan Frey	Garden City, NY
Chris Graves	Rutland, VT
John Navins	Wellesley, MA
Blake Nicholson	Baltimore, MD
Brian O'Donnell	Norfolk, MA
Wristen Paschich	Corrales, NM
John Rank	Pennington, NJ
Tom Reed	Falmouth, ME
Jules Szantos	Philadelphia, PA

No Spring Initiates or Sig Sisters

### Vermont — Fall Initiates:

John Willard Britton III	Duxbury, MA
Zachary Morse Taylor	Palos Verdes, CA
John Morse McGill	Barrington, RI
David Garret Sweeney	Clarence, NY

Spring Swing is first weekend of April

### Spring Initiates:

Ethan Scott Beardsworth	Plainsboro, NJ
Paul Narayan Campbell	Bethesda, MD
Shelby Robert Forsthuber	Warren, VT
Fred Castiglia Harrison	NY
Cameron Devoe Lowler	Bamebridge Is, WA

NAME	SIG SISTERS - October	SPONSOR
Jacquelyn Leigh Bolduc	Blake Price Browne V00	
Shawna Pearl Wells	Brendan Edward Breen V00	

### Michigan — Spring Initiates:

Nicholas Daniel Mermiges	Huntington Woods, MI
Tyler Frederick Hagle	Champaign, IL
Valentine Yuri Karpenko	Brighton, MI
Fernando Barreto de Moura	College Station, TX

NAME	SIG SISTERS - March	SPONSOR
Adrienne Barclay	Edward Freiwald M'00	
Karyn Ledbetter	Josh Dzurlikowski M'00	
Casia Augustine	Andrew Augustine M'99	
Donnell Snite Mersereau	Bob Mersereau M'74	

### Cornell — Spring Initiates:

Benjamin David Auerbach	Buffalo, NY
Tyler Randell Levin	Buffalo, NY
Joshua Kyle Linden	Trumbull, CT
Bryan Joseph Muldowney	Hamburg, NY
Retta Abraham Mulugetta	Ithaca, NY
Gregory Arthur Riessen	Tiburon, CA
Matthew Ernie Serediak	Regina, Saskatchewan
Daniel Peter Van Den Bergh	Goumoens-la-Ville
Andrew David Wolf	Plainsboro, NJ

Spring Swing is the first weekend of April

### Wisconsin — Fall Initiates:

Jon Edward Janes	Waukesha, WI
Justin Michael Hoffmann	Avon, MN
Jeremy Joseph Carlson	Brooklyn Center, MN
Brian James Olsen	Waupaca, WI
Jeremy Michael Parker	Wanakee, WI
Benjamin Julius Sprague	Chico, CA

### California — Fall Initiates:

Ted Austin Chen	Torrance, CA
Hunter McNeal Pechin	Los Angeles, CA

### Virginia — Fall Initiates:

John Dean Davis Jr.	Yonkers, NY
Viraj Vimal Didwania	Bombay, India
Michael Robert Goodell	Arlington, VA
Thomas Bentley Heyward	Richmond, VA
Stewart Coleman James	Nassawadox, VA
Saket Narula	New Delhi, India
Andrew Zeno Ramsey Newby	Arlington, VA
Timothy Michael Quayle	Chesapeake, VA
Ryan Bradley Small	Atlanta, GA

### Winter Initiate:

Justin Terrance Trigg	Willimington, DE
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NAME	SIG SISTERS - December	SPONSOR
Elizabeth Rose Haber	Thomas Bentley Heyward S'02	
Katherine Hay Spicer	John Dean Davis, Jr. S'02	

NAME	SIG SISTERS - February	SPONSOR
Allison Stevens Ramsey	Christopher Thomas Reams S'01	



# Never Forget...

by David Williams W'61

For as long as I can remember, the trustees of the Alpha of Massachusetts have gathered in Williamstown for the November homecoming. I attended these events first as an active later as a homecoming alumnus, and still later as a trustee. Of all the people I have met at these events, from 1961 to the present, the most memorable was surely Woodrow Wilson Sayre W'37.

At the time I met him, the Vietnam war raged and the Watergate scandal loomed. Sayre, who preferred to be called 'Woody,' had been a university professor. He was the grandson of President Woodrow Wilson. He engaged my wife and me in a lengthy conversation about the nature of democracy and present uses and abuses of that form of social integration. The conversation went on for hours, with occasional participation by other trustees and guests. The crowd thinned as the hour grew late. Ultimately, Jane Shepard, wife of the late Rick Shepard W'41, said, "Don't get Woody started on his Everest story." But we did....

Woody had been a professor of Philosophy at Tufts in the 1950s. He was a colorful educator whose first loyalty was to teaching. There was, and there continues to be, a belief among higher education leaders that faculty worthy of tenure should both teach and publish. Publication would demonstrate broad knowledge, advance disciplinary knowledge, and lend prestige to the institution. Woody thought this was bunk and said so. He refused to publish and was eventually

From Ted Peters L'41: I am saddened to report to the Fraternity the death of our Brother **John J. Probst L'41** on February 18, 2003, of metastatic melanoma in San Diego, CA. Originally with the Lehigh class of '44, John left to serve as a bombardier in the China-Burma-India theatre with the US Army Air Corps in World War II, and returned to graduate with the class of 1948. For most of his professional life he was an engineer with Kaiser Aluminum in Australia, England, California, Texas, and Oklahoma, retiring in 1982 as Marketing and Sales Manager. He is survived by his wife of over 57 years, Sig Sister Gisela, four daughters and one son, all residing in California. An ardent tennis player and aviator, he was loved by all who knew him for his good humor and upbeat attitude - "a gentle giant loved by all."

sacked.

But, as in most other adverse circumstances in his life, this remarkable Sig did not go quietly into the night. He spoke out, students rallied to his cause, and the first student protest of that era erupted. It was followed by the Berkeley protests against University rules prohibiting student participation in political activities. Notwithstanding all of this, Woody left Tufts.

It was about this time that he came to believe in what he called feather edging. Under this theory, life could only be lived fully if one were on the edge of losing life. Only then would a person completely appreciate the meaning of life.

To achieve this state of being, Woody took up mountain climbing, with the objective of climbing Mount Everest. His *curriculum vitae* for this undertaking included nothing more impressive than several ascents in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, each of them less than 7,000 feet.

Undaunted, Woody conceived a training climb to prepare himself and his climbing fellows for Everest. He settled on Mount McKinley. He set off for Alaska. Upon arrival, he was dismayed to learn that the Park Service would not allow him to climb McKinley without filing affidavits from three local persons, each of whom would swear - under oath! - to rescue the climbers in the event of a mishap. And he needed three affidavits for each member of his party.

Ever resourceful, Woody and his friends pooled their money, went to the local bars on Saturday night, and, by Sunday morning, had the necessary affidavits. (He always claimed to be fortunate not to have to rely on the signers of the beer-stained affidavits.) Against all odds, Woody and his friends successfully climbed McKinley. Now he was ready for Everest.

At that time, the government of Nepal issued very few permits to climb Everest. Woody and his group were unknown climbers; they would never qualify for such permission. So Woody requested a permit to climb Gyachung-Kang, a mountain near Everest. It was not a popular destination and the permit was issued without serious inquiry. With at least *some* paperwork in hand, Woody and his three companions veered right and set out to conquer Everest!

They all needed to travel light and fast. The route which Woody laid out ran to the

base of Gyachung-Kang, past that mountain into what was then known as Red China and up Everest by the North Col. There were some obvious regulatory problems with this route: 1) Nepal had not granted permission and 2) Americans were banned from China. The trio was undaunted!

The first casualty of the need for fast travel was bottled oxygen. If they were going to make this climb, it would be unassisted by oxygen. Woody engaged a few Sherpas to carry equipment, but had to discharge them at the foot of Gyachung-Kang. Once the Sherpas had disappeared over the ridge, Woody and his companions began ferrying loads into China and establishing caches along the proposed route. The conquest had begun.

Somehow, the party avoided the Chinese Army and virtually all of the local inhabitants. As the days became weeks, however, various misfortunes befell Woody and other members of his party. Fortunately, none was fatal. When the others succumbed to various injuries and illnesses, Woody continued to climb. He reached an elevation of 25,500 feet (just 3,500 feet below the summit of Everest)...solo and without oxygen. There he photographed the yellow band - this is a geological formation well known to Everest aficionados. But now, his resources were fully expended, and he had to abandon the effort. Woody literally wandered in the wilderness for several days before he was located and rescued.

Woody was a smart guy and a wise guy. He understood a great deal about the human condition and loved to teach what he knew. He was not subservient to authority. He could defy authority, but he always did so with a complete expostulation of just why he had done it. It was a very great pleasure to have been educated by him, even if it was only for a few hours on a November night, now long past.

I don't know where you are now, Woody, but—wherever it is—just keep climbing!

*Footnote: A more extensive account of the climb can be found at [www.K2news.com/sayre.htm](http://www.K2news.com/sayre.htm) and in a book entitled Four Against Everest, which Sayre authored. I understand the book is available at [Barnesandnoble.com](http://Barnesandnoble.com). ■*





**David Stein M.D. U'90** will complete his residency in Anesthesiology from Yale-New Haven Hospital this year and will move to the Delaware shore for a job in private practice this summer. His son, Daniel, just turned 4 and he and his wife, Tinna, just had a baby girl named Anika this past October. Until this summer, David can be reached at 2690 State Street, #L-16, Hamden, CT 06517. Email: dpstein10873@pol.net

**Andrew Wood U'93** is finishing up his MBA at Babson this Spring with an international marketing concentration. He is currently pursuing brand/product manager job opportunities with consumer products companies. He just recently re-joined the Navy as a Lieutenant in the active reserve and is currently training with Naval Coordination and Protection of Shipping Detachment in Quincy, MA. Andrew lives at 70 Church Street, #2, Wellesley, MA 02482-6323. email: awood@babson.edu

**Jonathan M. Gross, MD/MPH H'86** was married in February in Verro Beach, Florida to Laura Rebell. Among the guests was old and good friend Benedict Schoeller H'87, who came over with his wife from Germany. Jonathan had the pleasure of going to his wedding two years ago and Benedict enjoyed his wedding. The bonds of brotherhood remain strong. Jonathon lives at 201 W. 16th Street, Apt. 19DE, New York, NY 10011-6037. email: grossacres@aol.com.

**Ryan P. Delaney G'00** would like to wish **Christopher M. Bellapianta G'00** best of luck on his engagement to Hannah Konkle, a fellow Hobart and William Smith Grad. Chris proposed at the Delta on March 4, 2002. A September 2003 wedding is planned. Chris lives at 64 Carline Drive, Clifton, NJ 07013; Ryan lives at 357 E. 58th Street, New York, NY 10022.

**Narric Rome V'91** has just completed his first tour of duty in Vermont state politics as the campaign manager for the Shumlin for Lt. Governor campaign. Unfortunately the candidate lost, but will be back again soon. Narric currently resides in Burlington, VT has a recently swung Sig Sister by the name of Megan Kelleher VSS'02 and was just chosen as the next Secretary of the local Sigma Phi Club. Narric can be reached at PO Box 127; Church Street, Burlington, CT 05402-0127. Email: rome@mindspring.com.

**Kevin Smith V'96** graduated last May from the UPenn's Veterinary School and moved back to the Burlington area in June. He currently practices in a small animal hospital in Colchester, and lives in South Burlington with another Sig, Dan Rusu V'99. He wants everyone to know "It was great to see so many Sigs at Convention, hoping that just as many will join us for upcoming swings and tunks." Kevin can be reached at KPSV96@hotmail.com.

**R. C. Rieder M'33** believes that he and **Roe Duke Watson M'33** are the only living Michigan '33 Sigs. R.C. lives at 7106 Currin Dr., Dallas TX 75230.

**Cal Patterson M'50** has turned to writing as he says "to stay busy and put my energies to creative use." Just recently his first novel was published, "a somewhat fan-

ciful account centered on the possibility first of development of a truly viable electrically powered automobile, and later; the possibility of an anti-gravity device to power cars and other vehicles." Anyone interested can learn about the book and find ordering information at [www.1stbooks.com/bookview/14266](http://www.1stbooks.com/bookview/14266). "It has been fun. In fact, I have completed a second volume, which is in the hands of an illustrator as we speak. It continues the story. And, I have started a third book, a much different (and longer) work of largely historical fiction I call *The Wayfarers*." Cal's address is 3323 Brooklyn Avenue SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508.

No alumnus at Michigan's April 5 Swing was more unexpected or welcome than **Alex Outhred M'93**. Calling it a vacation from the acting and screenwriting work that's his bread and butter, Alex drove all the way from his home in Los Angeles to take part in this latest Ann Arbor initiation. Not having been back to the Sigma Phi Place since his graduation in 1996, Alex saw it as a homecoming, too! His non-stop, high energy help during initiation and pre-initiation events was world class.... Alex lives at 3101 Fernwood Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90039. e-mail: madvoices@hotmail.com

**Steven A. Rietzke M'99** sent in the following: "Fear not, for in this war-torn, terror-stricken economy there are still a handful of employers that are hiring and are just waiting to receive your resume. After a year-long search for an opportunity to leave my employer, I was finally rewarded last week with a job offer that amounts to a 12.5% raise in salary, and the opportunity to work in a field that greatly interests me: logistics/industrial engineering. So, despite the media's depiction of a bleak and hopeless job market, I assure you there are jobs to be found, and the terrorists have not won! Steven lives at 426 Packard #3, Ann Arbor, MI 48104. email: sarietzke@yahoo.com

**Mark H. Rothenberg L'86** and his wife just had their first child, Justin Paul Rothenberg. He says, "Everyone is Healthy and Happy on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, where a number of other Lehigh Sigs (and their Newborn 'Little Sig-Lets') reside." Mark's actual address is 424 West End Avenue, #208, New York, NY 10024-5785.

**Jeff Zilka C'73**, a long-time financial and corporate communications executive, has joined Edelman, a worldwide strategic communications firm, in Chicago as executive vice president responsible for its financial communications practice in the Midwest. Jeff, who moved his family to Chicago in 1993, had preferred to start his own firm but, given the state of the economy, was happy to join this highly-regarded firm. Jeffrey lives just outside the Windy City at 1371 Asbury Ave., Winnetka, IL 60093. email: jeff.zilka@edelman.com

**Thomas Towell F'50** retired from his marketing and advertising agency which his son, also a Sigma Phi, now owns. He still lectures at UW and serves as a private consultant. He and his wife Aetha Jean now have 5 grandchildren and travel extensively. Thomas lives at 6426 Wydown Circle, Middletown, WI 53562.

**Steven J. Winkel F'85** and his wife had a daughter on May 5, 2001 named Nicole Anna Winkel, and then a son on November 25, 2002 named Ryan Steven Winkel. Steven lives at N73W26973 Kettle Cove, Sussex, WI 53089

**Les Spanheimer F'87** finished flight school and a tour in Norfolk, Virginia and then went across to England on an exchange program and flew with the Royal Air Force - great experience (great beer). Since

returning to the states he has been at the Naval Strike and Air Warfare in the Nevada desert. In addition to the TOPGUN weapons school (just like the movie) they also have a Command and Control school that he runs and every Aircraft Carrier Airwing comes through them for training prior to deploying overseas. "The Navy is ready, we'll just have to wait and see how this plays out." In March he will be going back to sea with another squadron. "After a couple years talking about it it'll be good to get back out there and do it again."

The last March Fourth celebration of this year was held promptly on April 4th at the Alpha of Jupiter, in Florida. Attending were **Cal Howard S'54**, and his wife Dorothy, **John Connelly S'54** and his wife Judy, **Michael Jackson S'62** and his wife, Pepper, and **Arthur Salomon S'54**. Cal, the former chairman of the Society, spends winters at the "Alpha of Jupiter," located at 107 Amberjack Lane, Jupiter, FL 33477. email: clhhoward@earthlink.net

**Kevin Doyle S'88** is continuing to work as a civil trial lawyer in Atlanta, Georgia. He and his wife recently moved into a larger home in Roswell, Georgia, which they are slowly renovating. His family has grown to two boys, ages 2 and 9, and a daughter who is 6. They all live at 210 Junction Track, Roswell, GA 30075. Email: kevinadoyle@yahoo.com

**Scott Gillespie S'92** was married to Tarpley Vest on September 14th, 2002. The wedding took place in Charlottesville and many Sigs were in attendance. Curtis Shulze S'92, John Marty S'92, Jay Smethurst S'93 and Justin (Skippy) Hollon S'94 were all in the wedding party. The happy couple resides in Charlottesville, VA, and welcome a visit from all Sigs traveling through the area. Scott lives at 401 Meade Avenue, Charlottesville, VA 22903. e-mail: gillespie@alumni.virginia.edu

**Emmanuel Tesone S'96** reported that he will be returning to the halls of academe, attending business school at Harvard University starting this fall. He looks forward to getting to know more Sigs in the Boston area. As he is in the midst of an apartment hunt, he is unsure of his future address, but asks that people stay in touch via email: etesone@mba2005.hbs.edu. ■

## Never Forget

We have been notified that the following Brothers have passed from this life since our last publication of *The Flame*:

John Keith Bishop U'65 .....Oct. 13, 2002  
 Marshall Cheney Jr. I'42 .....  
 James Chisholm I'63 .....  
 Ronald Dreesen L'52 .....Sept. 24, 2002  
 Theodore A. Dungan I'28 .....Sept. 28, 2002  
 Edward H. Farnham V'21 .....Aug. 1, 2000  
 William H. Hoogs Jr. I'59 .....  
 David Kelley V'51 .....  
 Peter V.H. Linton I'55 .....  
 Donald Nichols I'20 .....  
 Franklin O'Connell H'60 .....  
 Woodrow W. Sayre W'37 .....Sept. 16, 2002  
 John Thomas L'26 .....

