



Sigma Phi

FLAME

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Hicks Oratory Winner:

“They Call Him Bubba”

by Benjamin Koffel, C'04

They call him Bubba. He is 200 lbs of pure sex appeal, and his naked body is running at you with a jar full of salad dressing.

They call him Nick. This fall he traded in all of the house's old furniture and bought a tanning bed for his room. He, too is fleeing, covered in flour and fried fish.

They call us brothers. We are wearing suits, ties, frightened and entertained grins, and we are clearly running away. Some run out of fear that they will become caught in the cross fire of fish and honey dijon, a few run because Bubba is naked, and others simply run because everyone else is. Regardless of why, and at different speeds, paces, and varying levels of grace, we all run away.

Welcome to Sigma Phi, a place somewhere between the youth of childhood and the unknown frontier of adulthood, where vigor and vivaciousness pierce through the cracks in our ancient walls and where we come together to enrich ourselves through nudity and condiments. Sure as the sun will rise each day, the light of a new dawn brings to the brothers of the Sigma Phi the chance to enlighten ourselves and to experience, as our Rush brochure calls it, the fundamental transition from boyhood to manhood. Ours is a journey filled with unpredictable twists and turns, ever-changing landscapes, boisterous obstacles, and above all, ours is a journey filled with each other.

Our neophyte picture, for those of you unfamiliar with the Epsilon's traditions, entails the new brothers lining up to pose on the back porch while the upperclassmen bless them with water from the 3rd floor rooms. Our picture got somewhat out of hand when Nick decided to take out his aggression with leftover dinner, but thankfully it is experiences like these that are so necessary to our brotherhood, for from an objective standpoint, they are some of the few things we actually have in common with each other. We are, at best, unlikely members of the same house, bound together by little



Benjamin Koffel, C'04, presents his winning oratory.

Year after year, the Hicks Oratorical Contest is a unique and memorable convention highlight. This one-of-a-kind Society showcase, underwritten decades ago via a bequest from Oliver Hewlett Hicks, V'1868, permits undergraduate Sigs to prepare and a deliver formal orations about Sigma Phi before a convention audience.

other than our membership in this illustrious society.

Quite different from many other houses, we cannot be classified as the football house, the lacrosse house, or the debate house. We are not the jockiest of jocks, the most scholarly of scholars, or preppiest of the preps. There is no Sigma Phi look; our closets barely resemble each other. Some come to formal dinners dressed in jeans and a polo shirt with tie while others only wear suits made of the finest wool. The question that begs to be asked is why. Why do I room with a surfer who doesn't wear underwear? Why do I spend time now with people to whom I wouldn't have given the time of day in high school? Why do we feel such affection for each other? And more importantly, why did I almost leave such a remarkable group?

The answer lies somewhere in between the

imminent danger of Bubba and the sanctuary of our rooms, on a warm spring day, running around with our hands in the air.

Last spring, after I signed my bid, I was one email away from depledging. After the post-Rush week excitement wore off and the magnitude of my decision sunk in I was overwhelmed by the randomness of the whole situation: how my Orientation Leader from the fall happened to invite me to a Thursday Night dinner, and how when I came to the December formal I jokingly said to my date, “Yeah, I'm not gonna join the house, but I have no problem drinking their champagne.” One thing led to another, and somewhere along the way I became friends with a handful of brothers. Too caught up in the excitement of a mansion, jacket and tie dinners, and the allure of greek life, I didn't stop long enough to hear out the words of caution coming from the devil's advocate in my mind.

Soon after Rush week the new pledges and brothers had a formal dinner together. A surprised loneliness typified my evening. Who were these 15 other people who were suddenly going to become part of MY new house? How come they all knew each other, and why did the brothers know all of them? In one night the Sigma Phi that I had seen became something different: A house whose character I knew was changed fundamentally by the new members of my pledge class.

Small groups gathered around to talk; I couldn't relate to the San Francisco stories of David and Greg, I wasn't a rower like Scott or Dan or Cody, and I didn't live in Low Rise 6 or Court Hall. I fit in, to an extent, but the house was not a place where I belonged.

I felt this way for the first few weeks of pledging. It took me a week to learn my pledge brothers' names, let alone have something more than an introductory conversation with them. Simply put, I felt (Continued on Page 7)

Message from the Chairman

by Jim Jenkins, S'58

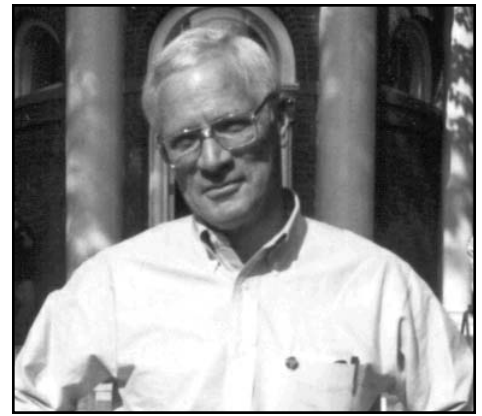
Dear Sig Brothers:
As reported in the last Flame, Virginia Sigs in unprecedented numbers returned to Charlottesville the weekend of February 27, to celebrate with enthusiastic fervor the 50th Anniversary of the Alpha of Virginia. For all present it was a special time marked by an abundance of Sig love so obvious in the sight and sound of brothers greeting each other, exchanging warm hugs, and again sharing stories of their far flung lives. Brothers who I had not seen or heard from in decades were there and it was as if we had never left. It was for me and I know for others a weekend we did not want to see end.

While a milestone anniversary does not come every year, opportunities are always present, especially at this season of the year, calling us to return to the campus of our youth. For

some it may be a football game or class reunion activity. For others, as at Cornell this fall, the Society's Annual Convention provided the reason to travel back. Whatever the cause, I urge you to take advantage of these occasions to renew the bonds of brotherhood with Sigs both young and old. If not now, when? As much as we like to avoid the thought, time will not always be there for us to do these things.

The truth of this statement is made clear at each convention when, as a regular and important part of our proceedings, we read the names of those brothers who are no longer in this life with us. Following this reading we stand for a moment of respectful silence before boldly pronouncing in unison, "Never Forget the Brother."

All of us have experienced these sad losses for they are not confined to just the senior core



Jim Jenkins, S'58

of our members but unfortunately span the generations. For example, at Virginia, we marked this fall both the loss of a young graduate, Payton A. Sands S'98, as well as a senior brother from my own class, Edward P. Newell S'58. Whatever the age, the loss of a brother is deeply felt by those of us who knew and loved them and they will be greatly missed.

This brings me to my main point and that is to urge you always to take advantage of the times we have to be with one another to share our brotherhood and the life long friendships we have in Sigma Phi. It will be time well spent and, always, a wonderfully soul enriching experience. *Esto perpetua!*

B.S.L.,

James L. Jenkins



Have you included Sigma Phi in your will?

Including Sigma Phi in your will or trust is a great way to make a lasting contribution to the Society. There are many ways to make a gift to the Society through a will or trust provision. Bequests can provide that Sigma Phi receive a specified sum of money, a specific piece of property or a stated percentage of your estate. The Society can also be listed as a contingent beneficiary. For more information, contact Sigma Phi National Headquarters, Post Office Box 4633, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-4633. 919-929-7070



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, Post Office Box 4633, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-4633.

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MEMBER, NATIONAL
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CONFERENCE



Sigma Phi Home Page: www.sigmaphi.org

"Brother Can You Spare a Dime?"

Final 2004 Dues and Contributions Appeal

Dear Brother:

I would be remiss in my responsibilities as Chairman if I did not remind and strongly urge you to use the enclosed form and envelope to make your 2004 contribution to the Society. Without the payment of dues and your support through additional monetary gifts, the Society would simply not be able to meet the various expenses required of our modest National Organization.

For example, the printing and postage connected with publication of the Flame and the maintenance of our address data base are major ongoing costs that must be met. Hosting National Conventions and conducting leadership training for undergraduates both at conventions and at individual campuses through the work of our National Secretary are also important activities that require funding. In addition, in the year ahead we anticipate added travel expenses connected with taking a proactive stance in seeking appropriate places for the expansion of the Society.

Therefore please send a check today and, if possible, consider a gift above and beyond our dues request. As of November, we have received dues and contributions totaling \$37,930 from 522 Sigs but we need at least \$50,000 annually in dues income. Furthermore, to avoid using the income from our small endowment would require \$75,000 in dues. Please take the time now to make this commitment to Sigma Phi. On behalf of our Brotherhood, I thank you for your support.

B.S.L.,

James L. Jenkins, S'58



Kudos & Thanks...

...to the following Sigs for their articles, information or suggestions supporting this issue of the Flame: Jim Jenkins, S'58, Wendell A. "Dell" Hutchinson, I'71, Scott McCrae, V'82, Alvar Soosaar, S'96, Rob Herring, S'98, Kyle Matis, U'02, and Benjamin Koffel, C'04.

Issue after issue, we solicit Sig perspectives, and every one that we publish improves the periodical in which it appears! Contact co-editor Alvar Soosaar with your feedback and/or suggestions (e-mail: alvar@alumni.virginia.edu).

From Where I Sit

by Alvar Soosaar, S'96

Over the last several months, I have had some truly wonderful experiences that involved brothers in Sigma Phi.

Recently, my wife threw a surprise party for me, and Beth and Dave Messler U'93 were in the thick of it. I think my involvement at the national level has led to some truly strong friendships with guys who whom I never would have met otherwise, and I am very thankful to my Rush Chairman nine years ago for plucking me out of worldling obscurity and starting me down this path!

It was in the circumstances surrounding my wedding, however, that I really saw some wonderful Sigly things. A bunch of Sigs and Sig Sisters were there, including the aforementioned Messlers. In good Sig fashion, not all arrived on time. Some are therefore missing from the accompanying picture. I had a blast, of course, and they all seemed to, as well.


But two brothers in particular stick in my mind for what they did for me on that day. My wife and I come from different religious traditions, so we decided to have a civil ceremony. We asked an old family friend of mine from Boston to officiate, but discovered that he would be unable to sign the marriage certificate given his residency in Massachusetts rather than Virginia, the site of our wedding. I turned to one of my groomsmen, Jim "Vinny" Cole, S'87, for help in the matter. He offered, as a resident of Virginia, to officiate "unofficially" –



The former Jennifer L. Miller and Alvar Soosaar, S'96, with Sig friends at their wedding

in other words, at the appropriate point, he winked and we were married, even though the actual words were spoken by my family friend. As a religious man, I suspect that Vinny felt somewhat uncomfortable, but he also understood our quandary, and came to the rescue. I will never forget.

The other, who I will not name, is going through a rough patch in his life. Although he missed the ceremony, he came to the reception and pulled me aside. Saying that "Every Sig needs to be married with a Badge on," he unpinned his own and put it on me. Some

may think this was silly or minor or perhaps superstitious, but it meant the world to me. I hope to return the badge to its rightful owner, and - if the occasion should arise - help him remember why we joined this Society. The Sig anecdotes I've described above are unique to me. I know that each of us can bring many of them to mind. In all of these circumstances, it's been obvious to me that the support, the bonds, and the common fraternal ground represent important interpersonal things that we Sigs will carry and revere for the rest of our lives. 

Nominations Open For

The Elihu Root Distinguished Sigma Phi and David Brown Awards

The Standing and Advisory Committee is soliciting nominations for its two highest awards conferred on Sig Brothers.

The Elihu Root Distinguished Sigma Phi Award, initiated in 1989, is to recognize and honor a Sigma Phi alumnus for lifetime achievement that reflects Sigma Phi's values and brings credit to the Society. The award is intended to provide inspiration for all Sigs and in particular for undergraduates, our leaders of the future.

Worthy candidates for selection are graduate brothers who have distinguished themselves by achieving national or international prominence, providing broad public service to others in society, and/or rendering

outstanding service to the Society or to the fraternity system. Over the years, the award has been conferred to Charlie Boswell II, G'47, Chet Eaton, V'30, Hastings Keith, V'34, Art Nielsen Jr., F'38, Larry Perkins, F'25, Barney Rocca, I'34, and Chet Sawtelle, U'29.

The David Brown Award, named for long time Sig stalwart David S. Brown S'70, was instituted in 1999 to recognize Sig Brothers who have demonstrated their enduring love for our Society through their boundless energy and contributions to its brotherhood and well being. Its recipients to date are Ted Bosley I'73, Steve Moore V'41, and Doug Tudhope, V'47.

Nominations are due by July 1 and



Elihu Root, H'64

welcome sooner. Any individual or group may make them, with or without the knowledge of the nominee. All nominations, which should be descriptive, comprehensive, and in publishable form, will remain confidential to those Brothers who are directly involved in the selection process.

Nominations are being accepted by Dan Neumann F'71, the Society's Awards Co-chairman, who may also be contacted concerning additional details or questions at dneumann@orgdynamics.com or 120 Campbell Road, Trumbull, CT 06611.

Union: No Place on the Grounds

by Kyle Matis, U'02

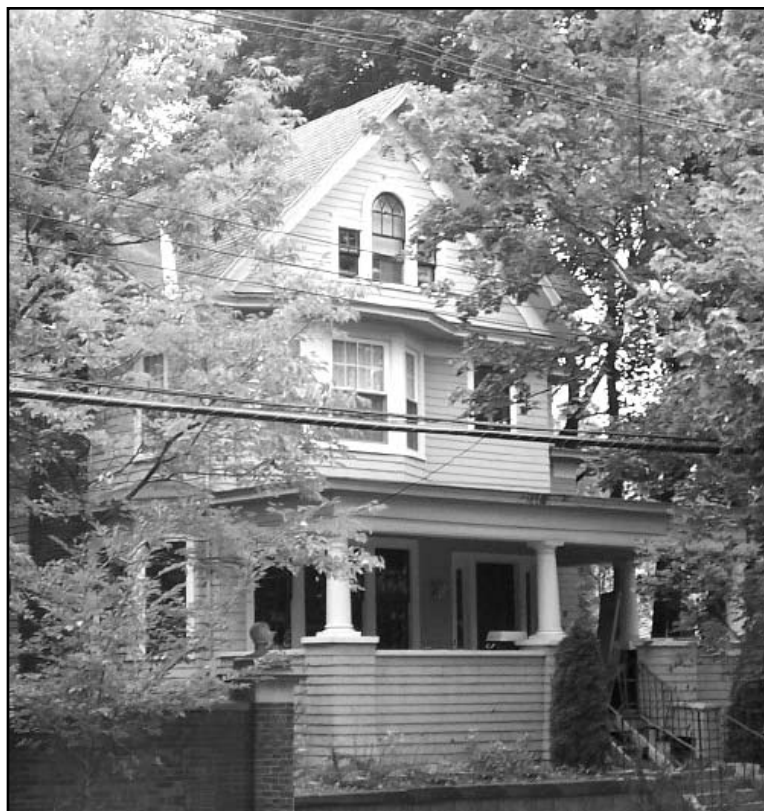
It would be an understatement to say that the Alpha chapter of the Sigma Phi Society has undergone extreme change in the last year. Our beloved Alpha of Alphas was removed from its longtime home at 1 Library Lane by Union College as a part of the school's new housing system. It's also an understatement to say that the active and alumni Brothers of the Alpha of New York were accepting of this situation. However, as everyone who would be welcomed into our order over a five-year period would inevitably learn, there was virtually no room for discussion about this issue with the College. No argument we could make – no rationale we could bring to bear – would permit us to keep the home that we've fondly called "The Place" for decades. Like other living groups, we'd be housed in College housing instead.

Limited funds were made available by the College to reshape what would be the new home of the active brotherhood. In fact, Union budgeted \$50,000 for the active brotherhood to renovate the space provided in a college-owned dormitory 300 yards southwest of the old Sigma Phi Place. Using the allotted cash, a group of six active Brothers tried to transform a sterile-looking wing of Davidson Hall into an address with at least some Sig character. With fresh paint and wooden floors, we moved the needle a little bit away from "purely institutional"....

Our rooms are blocked together on three floors. Sigs live on the second and third floors

in four-person suites and in one-person singles. Our circa-1965 (?) living unit has a first-floor common area (Cromwell continues to greet our visitors!), a fully functional kitchen, and an autonomous, 'Sigs only' dining room. The historic Schenectady area mural was moved from 1 Library Lane and adorns one wall in our new dining room. And did I mention that Doc still cooks for us nine times each week? While Davidson has another wing belonging to another fraternity (Chi Psi), we are for the most part self-contained and independent.

Like so many chapters of the Sigma Phi Society, the Alpha of New York is also fortunate



10 Union Avenue

nate to have a very dynamic and proud core of alumni who were prepared for the unfortunate actions of Union College. The Alpha's Alumni Board was able to purchase a small but gorgeous house just off of Union's grounds, which will be the new structure containing our Conclave Room, among other things. This building, as stalwart alumnus Len Kagan, U'66, has said, "...was bought with cash – lock, stock, and barrel. No one can take it away from us." This building provides the Alpha with a living space for three alumni Brothers and – more importantly – provides an isolated location where we can enjoy Conclave proceedings in the ways that all Sigs do.

Although the 31 Brothers of the Alpha of New York no longer are afforded the luxury of personal ownership of their living space, the Society is as strong as ever. The undergrads of our chapter are still privileged with the ability to live together, eat together, and share a social space. Sigma Phi is and has always been about the people, not the place. The bonds between Brothers are still strong despite the unfortunate position into which the College has placed us.


Davidson doesn't yet look like the home of the Sigma Phi. Day by day, though – encouraged by the promise of Sigma Phi – we're doing what we can to make it feel that way. 🏠

Remember the Old Pepperbox?

Well, at least you've heard the stories – now you can have your very own!

To check out this color print: Point your browser to www.SigmaPhi.org and go to the Store, then click on Chapter Prints. You'll find not only the Pepperbox, but also the Red House on the Hill (Michigan's old house), as well as prints of each of the current houses (plans for a print of the new Union Sigma Phi Place are in the works).

These make a great gift, and they look wonderful up on your walls. All prints come on a matte frame.

SIGMA PHI  THE PEPPER BOX



Union College, Schenectady, New York

A Word from the Secretary

by Scott McCrae, V'82

As I put pen to paper (or I should say finger to keyboard?), I am glancing out my window in South Burlington. It is early spring here where the grass is just starting to become green again and the first flowers of the season are just poking up through the ground to a new season of growth and rebirth. Many of the birds have returned and are already pairing up and making nests for another season.

The drive home from the 2004 National Convention in Ithaca was beautiful. The glorious autumn sun blanketed the rolling hills of the Finger Lakes region, where the foliage was right on the cusp of becoming what I knew would be stunningly vibrant with color. It was a great time to reflect and think back on my first Convention as General Secretary. Those weekends tend to pass all too quickly, and it was nice to have a six-and-a-half-hour drive to sort things out and review events of the weekend.

I made my way past Syracuse and on toward Utica, and I thought about the characteristics of Conventions in general, and the good things that took place this year. The first thing I always notice when going to any Convention is the heartfelt hospitality you receive when you arrive. It's so tremendous to be welcomed in such a gracious manner after an extended period of time out amongst the worldlings. It was also nice to be with people in person, after months of only email or occasional telephone conversations. I also enjoyed getting together with the rest of the S&A Executive Committee for dinner Thursday night to talk about the business of the Society and catch up on our lives. Some of us then adjourned to bed, while some of us then headed up to the Epsilon, where the undergraduates were very welcoming.

Somewhere near Herkimer, I thought about the productive day we had on Friday with the S&A Delegates and the Sigma Phi Educational Foundation meetings. The agendas for those meetings were full, yet both finished all the business at hand. I had to split my time between these meetings and the Undergraduate Workshop that I was running for the actives in the Statler Hotel's amphitheater-shaped meeting room (see accompanying article). This room was perfect for this workshop because it had tremendous sound and media equipment, and the layout allowed for great communication and interplay amongst the undergraduates. But their agenda was full too, starting with a risk management discussion with our insurance carrier. While this was going on, I used the time to scurry back over to the S&A meeting to give the General Secretary's report and an

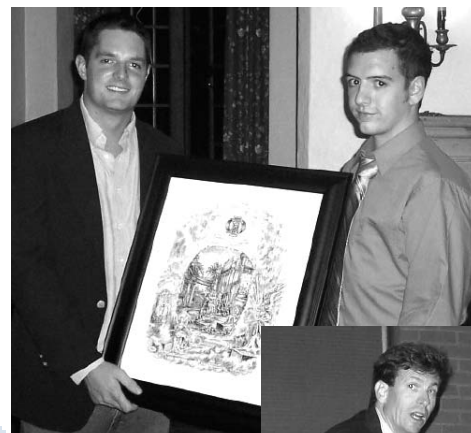
update on our efforts to expand to new campuses. I will be expanding on that issue in the next Flame.

Passing through Albany and up into the Adirondacks, my thoughts wandered back to our hosts, the Cornell Sigs, and their Convention co-chairmen Bryan Muldowney C'03 and Andrew Wolf C'03. They did a great job coordinating the events and their cook did an amazing job with preparing all of the meals at the house. Having been in their shoes on two occasions, I know what's involved in terms of hard work and preparation in pulling off a Convention. My hat is off to you guys: you did a great job!

It was great to have an informative and quick General Convention Meeting, run by Society Chairman Jim Jenkins S'58, on Saturday morning. In addition it was good to hear representatives give healthy and upbeat reports from each of the chapters. I pulled aside at a rest stop on I-87 North somewhere, realizing that I wanted to look at some of the digital pictures I took at the banquet the night before. The winning speech of the Hicks Oratorical (see accompanying article) was redelivered masterfully by its winner, Ben Koffel C'04.

There was a wonderful a cappella, all-female singing group who were very popular with the crowd. In fact, they were so popular that they inspired an off-the-cuff Shakespearean soliloquy about love from Brendan McCurdy H'80. I also thought it was a somewhat bittersweet honor to be called upon to deliver the Benedict Toast to the assembled Sigs. I say bittersweet because I'm not sure I'm quite ready to be considered the oldest Vermont Sig in the room, but I'm very happy to deliver what has been a long-held tradition at my chapter – and, I'm glad to say, is becoming one nationally as well. We finished the formal part of the banquet with a rendition of "Sigma Phi Ter Incluta" as we stood arm-in-arm in the good old magic circle.

I continued to scroll through the weekend's pictures on my digital camera. I think my favorite one had to be of a gift-giving that really came from the heart. John McGill V'02 presented a print that he had created himself of the frontispiece image of the Sigma Phi catalogue to the Cornell Sigs. In the picture, John is seen presenting the print to the Active President of Cornell, Mike Berry C'02. This framed print was absolutely beautiful and was signed by all of the Vermont Actives. It truly is a beautiful piece of artwork, and I'm sure it will be accorded a place of honor at the Epsilon. Hopefully this spirit of giving, rather



John McGill, V'02, presents his prints to Mike Berry, C'02; Brendan McCurdy, H'80, in the midst his soliloquy on love



than taking, will become a new tradition amongst our chapters in the years to follow.

As I passed through White Hall and into Vermont I thought about the very best thing that happened to me at the Cornell Convention. Jim Jenkins and I were sitting at the head table at the Saturday night banquet when one of the active chapter presidents approached us. He struggled to put his thoughts into words, so I will take some editorial license to paraphrase as his actual words escape me.

"I just wanted to thank you for all you guys do for the Society," he said. "Also, I cannot describe to you how much Sigma Phi means to me and how much it has changed my life for the better."

I glanced west out my left window as the sun was setting behind the purple Adirondack Mountains. That young man's words and thoughts warmed my heart and truly reminded me exactly why I do this job. Sigma Phi Society is truly a gem, one that we are lucky to be a part of. It is a Society of social and leadership development, which does meet a human need. It impacts its member's lives and their friendships forever.

As I push the button for my garage door opener, I think of what a wonderful weekend it was at Cornell. I think of all the new friendships made, of acquaintances remade, of catching up on things, of laughter, of stories, of learning, of triumph, of giving and sharing. But mostly, as I click off my engine and get out of the car, I think about how very lucky I am to be a part of Sigma Phi Society. *Esto Perpetua!*



New Foundation President Takes Office

by Wendell A. "Dell" Hutchinson, F'71

After a "hotly contested" election in late 2003, I was elected President of the Sigma Phi Educational Foundation. I would like to extend my thanks and the Foundation's thanks to my predecessor, Frank Mead C'56, for his leadership over the past few years.

My initial assessment of the Foundation is that it is an under-utilized source of funding for educationally-related projects. A number of potential projects were envisioned at the time that the Foundation was established, including the following: library grants, funding of Chapter House Operations Manuals, In-House Speaker Programs, Undergraduate Loan Programs, Chapter Achievement Awards and similar endeavors. While the founding Brothers likely did not envision "wi-fi" grants, I think such a grant is the perfect use of SPEF funds.

In the internet-driven world of today, it is imperative that our Sigma Phi Places around the country are best positioned to attract undergraduates with internet readiness consistent with their university community. SPEF Trustees acknowledged this need with an award

for wireless internet access – sometimes called "wi-fi" – to each Sigma Phi Place. The cash grants for as much as \$1250 per house are to be used to defray the direct costs of setting up "wi-fi." This matter was resolved at the Fall meeting of the Educational Foundation, held at the Cornell Convention in September. All houses are eligible for these grants, but Brothers are encouraged to contact me (my information is at www.sigmaphi.org) before beginning the work. Applications for the grants are to include receipts and a statement outlining the project by the Brother in charge of the endeavor.

As a bit of background, the Sigma Phi Educational Foundation is a public charity that was established back in the early '90's to facilitate "library grant" projects at a Sigma Phi Place near you, as well as to undertake other good works as appropriate and requested. Library Grants generally refer to grants made by a public charity to build or maintain a space in a fraternity house for a library – IRS rulings have held that this is a permissible activity for a charity. Although the focus of the Foundation has changed a bit in the short years since its

inception, its main focus remains assisting in educational matters surrounding our Society. To this end, the Trustees of the Foundation are looking for projects relevant and appropriate at the Chapter Houses of 2004.

SPEF also funds a number of other important Sig functions, including the undergraduate workshop at each year's National Convention, cash prizes to the winners of the Hicks Oratorical Contest and funding for Honor Society Keys for brothers who win such accolades. The Foundation will also provide a prize to the undergraduate individual who develops and implements the best chapter website. Stay tuned for more information on this...

What do the undergraduates need in 2004-2005 and beyond? Discuss your ideas and issues with the Foundation Trustee of your Chapter (usually the president of the Alumni Corporation) to be presented to the next Foundation Trustee Meeting in March 2005. Or drop me a note at dellhutchinson@yahoo.com. I think that the biggest limitation is our own initiative and imagination.

Wisconsin & Virginia Accorded 2004 Newsletter Awards

Ahe Sigma Phi Educational Foundation conferred its annual Newsletter Awards at the 2004 National Convention in Ithaca. The winner of the undergraduate competition was the Alpha of Wisconsin, publishers of *The Alpha Architect*. The winner of the alumni competition was *The Alpha of Virginia's Serpentine*.

The two separate awards recognize both the frequency and quality of overall communications efforts by Sigma Phi's local chapters and their associated alumni.

The Wisconsin actives published two newsletters during the past year, while the Virginia alumni published an impressive series of newsletters as a vital element of the Alpha's fabulously-successful Silver Anniversary celebration. Of particular note, both chapters also published electronic editions. We applaud these chapters for their efforts in communicating with their graduates to nurture the flame shared by all initiates.

The Wisconsin active chapter's award is its first since 1990, while Cornell, Union, and Virginia actives earned the distinction

between 1991 and 1995. This year's alumni award is the second for Virginia, while California's alumni publications have been recognized four times.

The Sigma Phi Educational Foundation is very pleased to have revived the newsletter recognition program after an eight-year hiatus and encourages all chapters to communicate regularly with their members. Chapters are also asked to provide a copy of their electronic publications to webmaster Derek Fredrickson V'94 (sigmaphi@sigmaphi.org) for posting on

Sigma Phi's national website.

All chapters and alumni organizations are encouraged to enter their publications in the competition by sending an electronic copy to newsletters@sigmaphi.org. For paper versions, simply send three (3) copies to:

Dan Neumann F'71
Awards Co-Chairman,
Sigma Phi Educational Foundation
120 Campbell Road
Trumbull, CT 06611

Get your copy of the Sigma Phi Thesaurus. Your guide to Brothers, the Thesaurus lists Sigma Phis alphabetically and by state and city. It's especially useful if you're traveling or otherwise unable to get to the Sigma Phi website. Yours for only \$20 – a sawbuck is all that we ask. Please go to www.SigmaPhi.org or contact Sharon Updike at Gilchrist Alumni Management (919-929-7070) for details.

Fourth of March Flagship Banquet

When: Saturday March 5, 2005

Where: Omni Hotel, Richmond, Virginia

Come celebrate the 178th anniversary of Sigma Phi Society and the end of the 50th year of the Alpha of Virginia (and the beginning of a great many more!)

We hope to see you there!



(Bubba - Continued from Page 1)

that I had little to nothing in common with the rest of my class.

My roommates back in the dorm, who all decided to join a different house, were having the time of their lives. After one session of lamenting with my friend Ryan, he said to me, "Ben, I haven't heard you say one positive thing about your house since you signed your bid."

He was right, but looking back on it I feel as though my reservations were an integral part of the process. I also discovered that I was just one of several pledges who felt the same way. Flowers don't grow without rain, and if the decision to join our society was an easy one then it wouldn't carry the tremendous weight that it does, nor would it compel brothers to write songs about our society or donate their time and money to allow us to live in such beautiful houses.

In Henry David Thoreau's classic trip to Walden he said that he left the woods for nearly the same reasons that he came, "...Because I wished to live deliberately," he said, "to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived." After learning more than any of us cares to know about squirrels and clouds and wind, Thoreau developed a deep understanding of the individual he had become. He felt that the truest test of his mettle was to see if he could remain an individual when he re-entered society, to march to the beat of his own drummer while keeping perfect time with his companions.

With Thoreau's thoughts implanted in my mind from years of high school English, I re-examined why Sigma Phi and I chose each other. The house sought to gain as much from me as I could gain from it. Without me there was no anthropology major, no one interested in South Asian and American Indian dance, and no one with an uncanny ability to attract beautiful women. Without Retta and Tyler we have no soccer players, without Billy no radio

announcers, without Bubba no thespians, without David no philosophers, and without each other we have no way to learn, grow, and realize how to remain individuals while enjoying the new experiences that life in our society brings. I stayed with Sigma Phi because I realized how important we both were to the other's development. It was a challenge I gave to myself, to step out of previous boundaries and expand my horizons.

Unlike the unfortunate stereotype of greek houses nowadays, none of us enter into this beloved society as a way to define ourselves or to somehow buy into a new identity or circle of friends. Our status as Sigs provides to us an additional color on our palette, one more sheet of music upon which to compose the harmonious symphonies of our own lives.

In a time when Universities, including those here at Cornell and unfortunately at our birthplace of Union College, are diminishing greek life as an archaic concept of the past, wrought with the overtones of racial and class stratification, we stand as a marker of the new diversity which they seek to promote. As any Residence Hall Director or University Trustee will surely tell you, one of the goals of a modern college is to foster differences in order to achieve the kind of growth and understanding that takes place each night within the Sigma Phi house since 1890. Colleges which attempt to minimize our presence only minimize the value of their educational experience, for they deny their students an ideal environment for life learning and fellowship, and a self-governing association where college men are given the responsibility and rewards of independence.

True diversity is not a matter of skin color or ethnic background, but one of character, and I can look to no other place than Sigma Phi to find a group of men committed to appreciating and respecting each other's idiosyncrasies. I truly believe that the only thing I have in common with the brothers in this house is the fact that we are all Sigs, that secret sympathy that binds us each to every other, and calls on us to love another so long as we

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are graced with the ability to do so.

As we ran away from Bubba and Nick last spring, we all took different paths in different directions. Some ran further and faster, others shorter and slower. Regardless of how, or why, we ran alongside each other, together, as one.

With much to learn and much to teach, we all journey onward through our four years at Sigma Phi surrounded by men who live the most deliberate lives, and who seek to confront each and every one of life's essential facts. When our badges are solemnly returned to our sacred walls, there will be no doubt that we experienced the friendship of individuals, the love of brothers, and the truth of enlightenment. *Esto Perpetua my good boys, Esto Perpetua Veritas.*



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Howard G. Carpenter Jr., U'58
Moses Cesario, I'89
Philip J. Christ, G'49
David C. Classen, S'75
Charles M. Clerici, U'92
James V. Cole II, S'87
Harris E. Collins, L'88
Robert Dawson Cook, S'80
Hunter Corbin, G'63
John M. Cuddeback, G'38
Thomas A. Curtis, I'44
J. Hornor Davis IV, S'72
Frank J. Demeter Jr., F'86
Andrew F. Detwiler, V'78
James R. Dimon, W'56
Joshua B. Dobrowski, M'94
Richard S. Dorer, L'66
Kevin S. Dunham, G'97
Joshua Ryan Dziurlikowski, M'00
John Edmondson, U'48
Fredric F. Ehle, F'57
J. William Ekegren Jr., C'41
Donald H. Fiedler, L'59
Walter J. Fogarty Jr., I'58
James A. Fontanella, V'65
Richard E. Ford, C'39
Michael K. Fox, S'64
Timothy C. Frautschi, F'56
Everett E. Fuller, I'44
John B. Fyfe Jr., M'46
Frederick W. Gaertner, S'68
James P. Gaiko, V'82
David A. Garden, L'48
Glenn R. George, C'82
Thomas A. Geraci, M'75
George L. Gall, F'69
Richard E. Glenn Jr., I'49
Daniel Goodman, F'69
Omar V. Greene Jr., L'48
Jonathon M. Gross, H'86
Jean Fraser Gruss, H'86
Richard A. Guior, L'79
David E. Hagberg, V'55
James T. Hall, V'62
John D. Hall, F'76
Henry U. Harris III, S'71
Robert P. Harshberger Jr., I'59
Ira D. Hart, V'83
Christopher S. Harnett, V'83
John D. Hibbard Jr., M'51
Mark B. Holland, S'86
Edmund H. Hornstein, V'79
Jackson R. Horton, F'49
Stephen J. Huesel, L'90
Robert L. Hunold, F'59
Wendell A. Hutchinson Jr., I'44
James L. Jenkins, S'58
H. Phillips Jesup, L'53
H. Scott Johnson, V'60
Gregory J. Jonas, M'75
C. Thomas Jones, F'42

Nelson T. Joyner Jr., C'56
Spencer Kellogg II, C'34
Joseph F. Kent III, S'63
Donald A. Kidder, V'54
Alan L. Klein, M'78
Donald K. Knapp, F'50
Christopher J. Knuth, F'78
Andrius Kontrimas, I'81
Justin Philip Krengel, M'98
Jack W. Kuehn Jr., W'61
Jules Labarthe Jr., C'56
Erick J. Laine Jr., F'77
William C. Lang, L'63
Henry Peter Lardner, M'50
Michael L. Laughlin, S'63
Laurent C. Lebien, S'81
Jay A. Lipe, S'53
Thaddeus S. Logan III, S'75
Godfrey M. Long Jr., S'61
Elias Lyman VII, V'34
Ralph L. MacDonald Jr., W'60
John L. Machulski, L'84
Edward E. Mack III, M'62
Michael C. MacKenney, U'77
Thomas Mackie Jr., F'65
Per A. Madsen, W'48
Nicholas Malafis, H'95
Cedric E. Marsh, M'33
Charles L. Martin, M'63
Lawrence L. McBee Jr., F'65
Frank J. McCarthy Jr., M'52
William T. McCune, G'81
Stanley W. McKay, M'64
David S. McKechnie, V'81
Richard B. Melbye, I'52
George D. Mercer, M'68
John B. Meyer, V'63
Richard H. Miller, V'66
Scott B. Miller MD, F'73
Samuel L. Moore, F'70
James B. Moran, L'64
Frederick C. Mueller, L'61
Matthew D. Muir, M'92
Birch M. Mullins, H'63
Morris G. Mundt, F'39
Charles T. Munger, M'42
James G. Nagel, G'74
Peter L. Newman, V'83
Arthur C. Nielsen Jr., F'38
George P. Nowlin III, S'83
Michael P. O'Bresly, S'83
Brendan J. O'Rourke, S'78
Lucas A. Ortega, M'90
Douglas H. Pace, L'68
H. Aaron Parekh, V'88
Peter B. Paschall, L'56
David J. Pascuzzi, V'90
Brian A. Patterson, L'89
David W. Pauls, M'65
Roger T. Pelli DO, V'70
Robert D. Pierson, L'54
Walter B. Pipp, M'42
David G. Pocost, F'81
George V. W. Pope Jr., H'39

Thomas Quigley, I'74
Richard B. Quinn, H'80
Robert L. Randolph, M'50
Stanley H. Rich, G'39
Adam P. Richards, S'93
Joshua Roach, V'90
Bernard T. Rocca Jr., I'34
Andrew RoCHAT, G'85
Mark Rothenberg, L'86
Ronald G. Ryder, L'70
Richard J. Saari, F'54
Roger W. Sackett, F'53
Arne R. Salvesen, F'57
Leif R. Salvesen, F'60
Chester M. Sawtelle, U'29
John D. Sayer, L'62
William O. Schilling, F'32
Peter Sears, U'76
David G. Sensenich, L'88
Robert B. Shaw, I'42
Joel Shumaker, I'80
Jules A. Sieburgh, C'69
Alan Simpson, S'85
P. Marcus Simpson, S'84
Frederick C. Smith, C'35
Peter K. Smith, U'67
Ralph E. Springstead, G'43
Gilbert H. Stannard MD, F'41
Robert W. Stern, F'87
Barry R. Stewart, G'56
Gerald Stratford, S'59
Edward L. Strong, U'47
H. Peters Strong, U'48
Donald E. Sudbay Jr., V'71
J. Robert Tank, V'60
Scott W. Tarmann, F'87
Richard Thickens, U'70
John D. Tobin, V'64
Mark L. Tomczak MD, F'69
Ronald G. Toothman, L'95
Herbert B. Towler, I'42
Charles C. Townsend III, S'68
Charles D. Turgrimson, F'30
Robert P. Turner, C'39
Edward M. Twohy, S'54
J. Richard Tyner MD, W'61
Kenneth J. Verostick Sr., L'52
Stephen Verp, U'81
John W. Vickers, L'47
Thomas A. Wagstaff, V'77
Christopher R. Walsh DDS, U'90
Tom S. Ward Jr., H'63
William T. Waste, I'43
Joshua D. Weinstein, U'89
Bradford G. Wheler, C'73
John Craig Wiles, M'62
J. Dwight Wilson, I'46
Thomas A. Winkel, F'53
Doniel Winter, I'94
Milton K. Woodhouse, F'38
Samuel E. Wuest, F'88
Eric Joseph Zorn, F'90
Christopher D. Zwingle, I'68

2004 Undergraduate Workshop Recap

by Scott McCrae, V'02

Glancing out my window, I notice how the Fall foliage is ascending toward its peak and Canada Geese have been honking overhead more and more frequently and in greater numbers. Soon, the Snow Geese will start migrating, marking the end of the warm season in Vermont. Although autumn marks an end, it also portends a beginning. This is especially so in Sigma Phi. Fall marks the beginning of the school year when undergraduate Sigs around the country reassemble to start their respective academic and social years. It also marks the time when we hold our annual National Convention, which was held at the Epsilon of New York at Cornell University. It is a time of year when Actives and Alumni from all chapters come together in friendship and to conduct the business of the Society.

The undergraduates typically meet on Friday of the Convention in a workshop setting. The General Secretary, in conjunction with the Sigma Phi Educational Foundation and the Viele Trust, sets the agenda and moderates the discussions. This year was no different as undergraduates from Hamilton, Vermont, Michigan, Cornell, Wisconsin, and Virginia all participated.

The workshop started promptly at 9:00 A.M. with introductions. Rich Jungman of H.R.H. Kirklin and Company, Sigma Phi's national insurance carrier, presented a great segment on risk management. Kirklin has been tremendously supportive of our efforts to convey risk management information to our undergraduates. Rich's segment focused on the nature of the Fraternity insurance market and how "high risk" it is. Rich covered various issues such as alcohol and hazing, and the associated consequences their use could bring. He also focused on good decision-making and problem resolution and avoidance while citing specific case studies to illustrate his points. Rich came well prepared and made a great



presentation.

Next, we quickly moved into a segment on recruitment called Rush 101. I had the undergraduates fill out a "Rush Questionnaire" to determine how the various chapters handle Rush and to find out what techniques have been working well. After collecting the questionnaires, we watched a video from the National Interfraternity Council called "The Right Way to Rush." The video emphasizes the fact that Rush is a year-long activity and that making friends and prospecting personally is the way to find a few good men on campus.

After the video, we held an open forum on recruitment using the rush questionnaire as a starting point to guide the discussion. This was one of the most valuable parts of the workshop, as the amphitheater venue really promoted great interaction and synergy amongst the chapters. Some great ideas were shared and I am sure this will make the recruitment process enjoyable and more successful.

Following lunch, we did a short section on "Alcohol Skills." Since a vast majority of undergraduates choose to make alcohol a part of their social activities, it is a good idea to revisit the pros and cons of doing so. We covered the effects of alcohol on the body and central nervous system, as well as the psychological effect of the fraternity setting. We discussed the ways in which alcohol can be beneficial in a social setting but also explored the ways in which alcohol can be detrimental or even dangerous.

The remainder of the day consisted of segments by our

national officers and alumni. S&A Chairman Jim Jenkins S'58 addressed the group first and gave a fine synopsis of the national organization and what it provides for our chapters.

Dan Neuman F'71 and David Williams W'61 joined us and spoke about the importance of timely grade reporting from the chapters to the National. They also discussed ways to facilitate this process so that it will be easier and more systematic.

We ended our day with a segment on the Viele Scholarship given by our Vice-Chairman, Marshall Solem F'79. Marshall talked about the history of the Viele scholarship and reported the number of scholarships that were awarded this year. Marshall reiterated the fact that the Viele scholarship gives away more funds than any other Fraternity or Sorority scholarship program in the country and emphasized the importance of getting the applications in for it.

Although the agenda for the workshop was quite full, we covered a lot of good information. The venue led to some great interaction amongst the attendees and the feedback was great.

Well, in the time it took for me to reflect on my first Undergraduate Workshop as General Secretary, I have seen my first flock of snow geese winging it southward to warmer climates. It is a sign that we are well into autumn and well into a new school year. After putting on a workshop like this, I wonder whether the attendees learned from it. They always say that if you can just take one valuable idea from it, it was worth attending. I hope these guys took away many ideas.

As we forge ahead into the new academic year, it is my sincerest wish that this year's Undergraduate workshop was effective in stimulating the thoughts and actions of our young active members. This not only for the benefit of the individuals and chapters, but also for the Society as a whole. *Esto Perpetua!*



Actives Taking a Break Between Sessions.



News of INTEREST

Chester M. Sawtelle, U'29, reports that he recently hit 95 on September 27 and has kept up his Cribbage Club meetings every Monday for the past 20 years. In good Sigly fashion, he writes that although he does not drink or drive, "drink is always available" at his place in Marblehead, MA, and that he and his Corgi dog Periwinkle would love to see any Sigs.

Alpha of Virginia Founder **John Edmondson, U'48**, is still flying high from the 50th birthday in February: "What a marvelous 50th anniversary party at the Alpha of Virginia! What a blast!"

Kenneth S. Sheldon Jr., U'50 has retired with his wife Kathryn and now splits his time between Venice, FL, in the winters and the rest of the year on the banks of the Mohawk River, "which my wife Kathryn and I enjoy very much." They recently hosted the 49th annual military reunion of the Sailors and Wives group of Albany, NY-berthed DE588 USS Peiffer, the only remaining WWII destroyer escort vessel.

Barry Rosenberg, U'80, is still married (for the second time), has two children and serves as CEO of Econoco Corp, a manufacturer of store fixtures and displays in Hicksville, NY. He lives in Laurel Hollow, NY, on the north shore of Long Island and is chapter Chairman for Young President's Organization (YPO) on Long Island and would love to know if Sig Phi has other YPOers. He can be reached at br@econoco.com.

Thomas W. Bleezarde, H'54, has visions of the Blue Danube, on which he recently cruised as part of his recuperation from open-heart surgery. Although he had to suspend golf this summer, he asserts that he will be back on the squash courts this winter.

The editors note with wistfulness and a great deal of envy that **Stanley H. Rich, G'39**, is still in good shape after hitting 85 on the golf course!

Scott D. Springer, G'87, writes that he lives in Lynnfield, MA, with his wife and two-year old daughter Chloe, and is practicing law at Bratton & Springer, which specializes in Criminal Defense and Personal Injury, with offices in Lynn, MA, Lowell, MA and Nashua, NH.

Richard H. Miller, V'66, reports that he is currently employed by the City of New Haven as Director of Engineering and Public Works, and remains married (34 years!) to Georgia Walsh Miller, a Sig sister.

"I just celebrated my 14-year wedding anniversary with my Sig sister Karen," writes **Peter L. Newman, V'83**. "Our three boys, Stetson (12),

Chase (10) and Trent (5) are doing well and Karen is hoping to qualify again for the US Triathlon Team."

Earlier this year, **Scott T. Myers, V'85** opened his second Ethan Allen Furniture Store in Plymouth, MA in January, and continues to manage the store in Hyannis, MA, and live in Cotuit with Sig Sister Liz and their two children Tommy and Hannah. However, the best news is that he is halfway through chemotherapy in his fight against Hodgkin's Lymphoma and that progress is being made! Although he sends his best wishes to all Sigs, we return the kindness and pray for a speedy recovery. Scott adds that if any Sigs are in the area, he would be happy to see them – drop by either store and ask for him.

Robert M. Burger, V'89, reports that "A bunch of us rang the NASDAQ opening bell on June 29 for the Cesar Augusto Murillo Fund," named after Cesar Murillo V'89, who died in the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

Henry L. Newman, M'47, writes: "I am glad to be a Sigma Phi!"

Our thoughts and prayers are with good friend **George D. Mercer, M'68**. George's father Earle William Mercer passed away on August 10 at 85. Earle's children were the first generation of the family to receive a college education, and was an active supporter of Sigma Phi, both at the Alpha of Michigan and elsewhere. At Michigan, he put his electrician's skills to work at the House, and visited for more social reasons regularly with his wife Muriel. He also attended convention in Vermont and Virginia – a true "friend of Sigma Phi!" The editors feel that if the rest of the world were half as nice as Earle, there would be no wars, pestilence or famine...

E. Bruce Mumford Jr., M'75, reports that he is an executive vice president for ABN AMRO Inc. in Chicago, IL, where he lives with wife (and art dealer) Robin and children Jim (16), Everett (14) and Elise (9). When he is not working in the financial markets, Bruce sits on the boards of several for-profit and not-for-profit companies, as well as taking time on the farm in Wisconsin.

We think **Steven B. Katzman, M'82**, knows how to live. Although he reports that he's recently moved from White Lake to West Bloomfield, he slipped in that he went to Hawaii this summer with his three daughters – Kendra (17), Nicole (11) and Randi (9) – and went surfing and scuba diving for the first time. "It was great!" Oh, and he recently finished restoring his 1967 Vette, and is looking forward to the dream cruise.

Daniel Yemin, M'88 has recently left his position at LaSalle University in Philadelphia to commit to a full-time private practice in clinical psychology. However, he stays sharp – but in tune! – by continuing to make music with his band, playing about 50 shows a year and recording as well.

Lucas A. Ortega, M'90 – Living in NYC with

my wife Tammy. I'm working freelance in legal service while enjoying the lifestyle of a techno deejay.

Our thoughts go out to **Frederick C. Smith, C'35**, who writes that his Sig Sister and wife of 63 years died April 14, 2004.

Robert A. Barrows, C'37, pens a note that he is enjoying retirement at the country home, where he reminisces about pre-WWII Sigma Phi.

Peter B. Bloom MD, C'55, reports that he is practicing psychiatry in suburban Philadelphia and teaching at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School part time. He writes that his special interest area is the interface between mind and body and advances in neuroscience as they affect patient care. He keeps himself going strong by keeping Wednesdays unscheduled and postponing his workday until 10 am.

On March 1, the Army promoted **Christopher M. Garcia, C'77**, to Colonel. In June, his assignment on the Joint Staff ended and he moved within the Pentagon to new responsibilities in the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Gilbert H. Stannard MD, F'41, had a nice surprise when he and his wife Ann moved into a retirement village in Sister Bay, WI: Bob Yoomans F'38 or '39 and wife Charlotte are here also at this retirement spot. "Bob was still in the House when I pledged in 1940, and we had a good time talking about old times."

Daniel Goodman, F'69, is keeping up his torrid writing pace with the release of his 40th book titled "Spam Wars- Our Last Chance to Defeat Spammers, Scammers, and Hacker" – a topic that is close to all of our hearts in this Internet age.

Randall S. Knox, F'69, ran into Sue and Jim Haberstroh (F'67 or 68?) while watching the PGA Championship at Whistling Straits in August. "Neither seems to have changed much, which is a very good thing."

Dick Melbye, I'52, sends his BSL to all Sigs, and hopes that all will support the maintenance of the Alpha of California Sig House. After having worked as a trial lawyer for 42 years, he has retired and is living with his wife Ann in Atherton, where they keep tabs on their 11 grandchildren.

With tongue firmly in cheek, **Edward M. Twohy, S'54**, notes that he has "not written in during the last 30 years or so because I am the only Sig that absolutely nothing has happened to."

Godfrey M. Long Jr., S'61 – Jeff recently sold the two printing businesses he started 25 years ago. He has retired as Director and Marketing for Atlanta, Georgia-based Graphic Dimensions. He also is president-elect for the National Printing Association, (Document Management Industries Association) located in Washington, DC and seeing all North America and Europe.

Joseph F. Kent III, S'63, has recently retired

News of INTEREST

(Continued from Page 11)

from full-time teaching and administration, but will continue at the University of Richmond in a part time role as Special Assistant to the Provost in 2004-05.

Michael K. Fox, S'64, – married Lizann Resse in Hawaii in July 2004.

William L. Walker III, S'68, is enjoying life in Dallas with wife Piper and daughters Logan (5) and Chase (3). He sends out his BSL to all.

Frank C. Maloney IV, S'78, writes in about the Virginia anniversary celebration: "I attended the first night of the 5-50 celebration and was thrilled by the large number of wandering birds that returned to 163 Rugby Road. The Sprit is still there!"

Laurent C. Lebien, S'81, is more to the point: "Partied hard at Virginia Anniversary."

Graham B. Anthony, S'83, – Hello to wandering birds. Please call if you find yourself in Charlottesville, VA 434-989-5800.

Our favorite married Swedes **Lars F. Nordin, S'88**, and Sig Sister AnnaMaria celebrated their 10-year wedding anniversary on July 23rd in their homeland. They were accompanied with kids, Helsing (7), Han Kristian (6), Saga (3), and Emil (1). If anyone would like to reach out, his e-mail is lnordin@comcast.net

Austin M. McKenna, S'92, – Reports on fellow Virginia Sig **Toby Bryce, S'89**, has a new baby daughter, Lucy, also gorgeous. He also notes that **David Aylor, S'93**, is officially a genius and that **Peyton Lindley, S'94**, designs websites. The editors also have heard news that Brother McKenna's film project "Barbeque is a Noun" – done with fellow North Carolinian **Hawes Bostic, S'92** – has continued to gather accolades.

Alvar Soosaar, S'96, takes editorial privilege to note that he married the former Jennifer L. Miller in June. Groomsmen included **Manu Tesone, S'96**, **Bo Lusk, S'94**, (accompanied by wife Rebecca), and **Vinny Cole, S'87**, (and Sig Sister and wife Michelle), while ushers included **Skippy Hollon, S'94**, (accompanied by wife Heather) and **Dave Burden, S'96**, flying solo but causing all sorts of matchmaking trouble. Attendees included **The Chairman, S'58**, and wife Hazel, **Bowdie Lusk, S'65**, and Sig Sister and wife Penny Lusk, **Wyck Knox, S'90**, **Roland Lusk, S'00**, and Sig Sister and fiancé Heather Terry, and representing the Alpha of Alphas, **Dave Messler, U'93**, with Sig Sister and wife Beth, who reportedly had a colorful late night and next-day drive thanks to a certain unnamed groomsman. Please see picture on Page 3. In other news, Alvar has been splitting time between Philadelphia, where his new employer is based, and New Haven, where his new wife is hopefully in her final year of her Ph.D.



Never Forget

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

Payton Andrew Sands, S'98 – It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Payton Andrew Sands, S'98. Payton died on September 5, 2004, in Panama. Payton had been traveling the world for the last two years surfing, and hit Spain, Indonesia, Costa Rica, among many others, before setting in Panama to give surfing lessons and apply to MBA programs back in the United States.

Payton was a great individual who was full of life. He worked hard and he played hard. All those who knew him will undoubtedly remember his sense of humor and carefree attitude. Most importantly, we will remember him for his friendship. He was a true friend who, despite traveling around the world, kept up with his friends, often coming back home to attend weddings or just for a visit. Payton formed a real bond with his brothers in Sigma Phi. Those who knew him will surely miss him dearly.

Payton pledged Sigma Phi in the fall of his second year at the University of Virginia. He was initiated in the spring of 1998 with me, Cem Ozturk S'98, Phil Lipscomb S'98, and Dan Blakewood S'98. Payton lived in the Serp house his third year and graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Virginia in 2000 with a double major in Economics and Latin American Studies.

After graduation, Payton secured a position at Deutsche Bank in Baltimore. After two successful yet grueling years in finance, Payton took off to chase his dream of surfing and exploring the world. According to his family, his desire to be really good at something motivated his travels and his surfing experiences. While many of us can do little more than dream the dream, Payton was fortunate to be able to have lived it.

Friends and family from around the world gathered at St. Mark's Church in Vienna, Virginia on September 18, 2004, to celebrate his life. A scholarship for Sigma Phis has been established in his name at the University of Virginia to honor his memory and the profound impact he had on the lives he touched.

– Rob Herring, S'98

William Lucas Dinwiddie, I'39, died on September 29, 2004. He was born on August 19, 1919, and attended the New Mexico Military Institute and the University of California 1938-1940, AB 1945. He was related to a great many Sigma Phis. He was the:

Son of William Stuart Dinwiddie I'23
 Brother of Frank Lucas Dinwiddie I'48
 Nephew of John Ekin Dinwiddie I'20
 Nephew of G. Carrington Dinwiddie M'17
 Nephew of William Starrett Dinwiddie M'15
 Nephew of James Dinwiddie M'28
 Nephew of William Stuart Dinwiddie I'42
 Brother-in-law of John K. Ballantino I'42

His Sigma Phi relatives also included the following Michigan Sigs: Paul Starrett M'24, G. Starrett M'90, John Elliot Starrett M'25, W.A. Starretts M'93, Ralph Starrett M'25, R. Starrett M'17, and G.R. Starrett M'17. Of particular note: John E. Dinwiddie (I'20), one of Bill's uncles, was an architect who designed the former Sigma Phi Place on Bancroft Way (now on Piedmont Avenue)

Bill was a general contractor as the W.M.L. Dinwiddie Constructions Company. He is survived by his wife, Margot Dinwiddie, Walnut Creek, California; a daughter, Hester Ann White, Beloit, Wisconsin; and a son Starrett Dinwiddie, Lafayette, California.



Sig Website: Help Us Stay in Touch!

You know that our Society has had its own website since 1997. You probably know that your profile (name, address, phone, e-mail info) appears there. In our busy lives, it's worth under-scoring that it needs updating every time your vital statistics change.

If you've recently gotten a new street address, e-mail address, or phone number, go to the website (www.sigmaphi.org) and update your profile information. Consult the section called 'Brothers Only' and then "Account Administration." When this key info is up to date, it's the second best form of communication with Sigma Phi.

The best form? You personally being on hand at a chapter, a banquet, or a convention, of course!

