



Sigma Phi

FLAME

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Birth of a Chapter!

Marshall C. Salem F'79
Chairman

Allyson A. Sarter G'65
Vice Chairman

Scott McLean
Secretary V'82

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Rachel Neumann F'91
Alpha of WI

Tom H. I'05
Alpha of CA

Julie S'58
Alpha of VA

The Chairman's Message: "Another Candle..."

by Marshall Solem, F'79 marshall.solem@zsassociates.com

I have just had one of the greatest experiences in my time as a Sig. I can't tell you how thrilled I am that after 55 years of ongoing expansion hopes but fruitless pursuit, we have finally added another candle to the Sigma Phi crest. The Society now has a 14th chapter, this one at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. To give you a sense for the excitement I experienced throughout the founding weekend, Society Secretary Scott McCrae, V'82 (who incidentally was responsible for much of our success with this endeavor), looked at me on Saturday morning and commented, "You look like a golden retriever puppy." That's probably not the metaphor I would generally prefer be used to describe your Chairman, but – on that auspicious morning – it just may have been accurate! Or, maybe I felt/looked instead like a little kid who just received a new golden retriever puppy as a pet, or even as a proud new father. Regardless of the metaphor that fits best, I can confidently say that the founding of this chapter is an event that brings new energy to the entire Standing & Advisory Committee: indeed, the entire Society.

The Standing & Advisory Committee is dedicated to the success

of the new chapter, as are our undergraduates. I hope you will be, too. We feel very confident in the ability of the four new UNC brothers to build a strong chapter. We trust they'll follow in the footsteps of Bowie, Bowie, Cromwell and Witherspoon to build a legacy that will last over 180 years. But we are also pragmatists and know that the road ahead will not be easy. Success will require the active support of alumni in and around the Raleigh/Durham/Chapel Hill area...and throughout the country. If you live within any reasonable distance of Chapel Hill and are willing to help with the growth and management of the chapter, please contact Steve Wright, S'93 at 919-260-2509 or stevetheplow@yahoo.com to get involved. Steve was one of a half dozen Virginia Sig alumni who played a cardinal role in getting us where we are today. Those serious stakeholders would greatly appreciate the help of other Sigs in the area. We know you're out there.

If you don't live close to Chapel Hill, you can offer financial support to help the chapter in these early days. Fortunately, we do not yet need to worry about the overhead associated with a chapter house, since the new



Marshall Solem, F'79

Sigs will merely rent quarters near campus for a time until the group reaches critical mass. Still, there are costs associated with building and growing the chapter that are beyond the means of the four charter brothers. The S&A has been able to support initial start-up costs and will continue to help the chapter. But our ability to do this relies heavily on the active participation of our alumni brothers in contributing their annual dues, and – when possible – contributing to the North Carolina Endowment Fund. Please give "the youngest sister of our band" your strong, personal support.

As I enter the final months of my first term as Chairman, I look back with great pride on what we've accomplished. That group leadership history allows me look to the future with great confidence. It gladdens my heart to know that the Society is still relevant and can continue to grow and flourish.

Speaking of the future, I eagerly anticipate seeing many of you at the General Convention in Madison September 19-21st. It will commemorate the centennial anniversary of the Wisconsin chapter. Please join us for what is sure to be a great celebration, and a chance to meet our newest brothers from UNC. My prediction is that – if you show up – you'll have your Sig batteries charged. In that fortuitous case, I won't be the only one panting with excitement about the future of Sigma Phi. ☺



Presenting the Charter: Chairman Marshall Solem, F'79, presents the founding Tar Heel chapter document to charter Sigs Javier Herrera, Sean List, Jake Chung and Michael Puchley, all T'08.

Tar Heel Chapter Beginnings

by Sean List, T'08 splist@email.unc.edu

April 1, 2007, was a date which would change the course of not only my life, but also the lives of many Tar Heels to come.

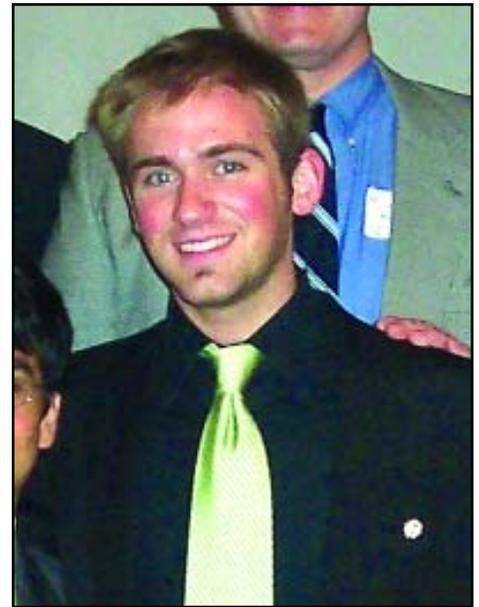
On this specific date, I received an e-mail from one Scott McCrae, V'82. Society General Secretary McCrae contacted me and others on campus concerning an informational reception Sigma Phi was holding to introduce a small, yet immensely prestigious, society of collegiate gentlemen to UNC undergrads. I was skeptical at first, considering the fact that I had never considered Greek Life. (I now know that this is a common "former mindset" among Sigs.)

Two days later, I sauntered my way into the Carolina Inn, a campus hotel, where I took the first step in leaving

behind my ways as a worldling. During the reception, amid throngs of handshakes and introductions, I realized that this was for me. The fact that I was welcomed whole-heartedly among these distinguished alumni from across the nation led me to believe that there was something different about this particular organization. These men, now my brothers, exuded the zeal felt by every brother, active and alumnus, associated with the addition of a new "youngest sister to our band."

After becoming well-acquainted with many of the sponsoring Virginia actives and alumni, the time came for a class to be gathered. After many meetings and events with active Sigs from Charlottesville, the process began. The first weekend in December held the Alpha of Virginia's Winter Formal; however, it was also the weekend in which six young men from North Carolina were offered bids into the Society. Throughout the months to follow, countless trips to the Serp house, and several in-car recitals of Journey's "Don't Stop Believing," these Tar Heels learned about the history and splendor of Sigma Phi...as well as the actual conveyances of Friendship, Love, and Truth. These times were difficult however; two of the original six pledges decided, for various reasons, to withdraw from the process.

One year passed since my initial introduction to the Society. Following



Sean List, T'08

months of mental and emotional preparation, our time had come. On April 3, 2008, the boys from UNC made their last trip to Mr. Jefferson's University as pledges. After a grueling and exhausting weekend, we were enlightened to the Illustrious World – forever leaving behind our worldling ways.

This brother's experience in the Society thus far has left him at a loss for words. Collectively, through the countless brothers, chapters, and experiences which this brother has seen, he looks forward to further pursuing and cultivating the Alpha of North Carolina. This brother looks forward to welcoming his brothers, both familiar and unacquainted, to what is now not just Tar Heel Country, but Sig Country as well. ☺

Tar Heel Call Sign Etymology

It's a time-honored custom within this Society for each chapter to have a call letter designation. The S&A selected "T" (for Tar Heel) as the call letter for the UNC chapter since "N" and "C" (logical choices for North Carolina or Chapel Hill) have already been used by the Alpha New Jersey (Princeton) and the Epsilon of New York (Cornell).



Kudos & Thanks...

...to the following Sigs for their articles, information or suggestions supporting this issue of the *Flame*: Scott Hekel, F'95, R.C. Hodgson, U'05, Dell Hutchinson, I'71, Rex Jones, F'72, Scott McCrae, V'82, Brendan McCurdy, H'80, Sean List, T'08, Bill Mills, F'70, Pete Smith, U'69, Andrew Steele, H'07 & Steve Wright, S'93.

Issue after issue, we solicit Sig perspectives from real Sigs in all walks of life. Every one that we publish improves the quality and readability of the periodical in which it appears! Contact Mike Imirie, M'69 (mimirie@aol.com) with your feedback, suggestions, photographs or Sig stories.



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
INTERFRATERNITY
CONFERENCE



Sigma Phi Home Page:
www.sigmaphi.org

April 5th, 2008: Birth of a Chapter

Address of General Secretary Scott McCrae, V'82

scottmccrae@comcast.net

Gentlemen:
I stand before you today on what is a most auspicious occasion for our Society. The Earth has circled the Sun 55 times since the Society last thrilled to the magnificent glory of lighting a new candle on our noble crest. But in a much larger sense, beyond the scope of these iconic and arcane adjustments, we have accomplished here something far more noteworthy and far reaching. There have been myriad brothers – young and old alike – who have asked me about our expansion aspirations. There has been an equal number asking why we should even bother. After all, having nine chapters leaves us small and prestigious and – in a leadership sense – very manageable. It also allows us to give larger Viele scholarships to a more concentrated group. I always like to agree heartily with those observations ... at the same time that I point out some important counterpoints.

First: If our Union and Hamilton brothers from the 19th century had that same “smaller is better” bias, none of our subsequent chapters would exist. Further, as the first national fraternity, the entire Greek community at colleges around the world might not exist today. We certainly would not be standing here at this special moment. If we bring to mind the tremendous impact the Society has had on all of us, on the brothers who came before us, the impact on our communities and on host institutions, it would be a tragedy of epic proportions if the earliest Sigs had felt this way.

Second: The Society’s hallowed pale has affected thousands of men over 18 decades. If what we attempt in founding the Alpha of North Carolina is done with care and vision, this youngest sister we have spawned here today could endure for centuries, too. She could make a positive – even incredible – difference to generations of UNC students, just as other proud Sig chapters have done elsewhere.

A story about serendipity from the early days of this expansion project

deserves to be shared. In order to make sure Sigma Phi followed proper lines of protocol regarding our expansion endeavors here, we hoped to secure a meeting with the UNC Greek Advisor Jenny Levering. While we waited to meet with Jenny, she had occasion to be in Indianapolis for an Association of Fraternity Advisors (AFA) annual meeting. The new AFA president is Jay Anhorn, the previous Greek Advisor at UNC. In fact, Jay was the person Marshall and I met with when we originally talked about starting a chapter at UNC, and it was Jay who invited us to do so. A fly on the wall (or was it the Sigma Phi pixie?) was privy to a conversation at the AFA meeting between Jay and Jenny. Jenny said to Jay, “I have to meet with this colony group called Sigma Phi and they only have nine chapters.” Jay replied, “Don’t underestimate Sigma Phi. It is small ... but small by design. It has very strong and very loyal alumni. I wouldn’t discount them.” Perhaps Jay researched us in Baird’s *Manual of American College Fraternities* where it is said of us that, “While each fraternity claims for itself that its alumni are more than usually loyal, yet each would probably be glad to see an increase in the strength of the tie that unites its graduate and undergraduate members, and Sigma Phi is really entitled to preeminence in this respect.”

I cite this story on this historic day because of its relevance to this entire wonderful project. I believe that, without Sigma Phi’s preeminent loyalty, we would not even be here today. This demanding founding effort – these sustained Sig heroics, across the months and miles – took the untiring loyalty of many Sigs of all ages, graduate and undergraduate, from not one, but many chapters. It took three years of research, planning and strategy to find a new home and be asked to colonize at UNC, an act of preeminent loyalty. It took planning and work by the S&A to modernize our bylaws to allow us to start a new chapter in a more

streamlined way: again, preeminent loyalty. It took the sacrifice of time of Marshall Solem and our GAMA executive, Donald Beeson, to accompany me to Chapel Hill on a number of occasions to lay the groundwork – once again, preeminent loyalty. It took recurring weekends of driving three hours from UVA to UNC by the active Serps to recruit new members at UNC while also managing the needs of their own chapter. Preeminent loyalty....

It took an amazing group of alumni in and around Chapel Hill to sacrifice their weekends, week nights, and home/family time to host, attend and facilitate recruitment events. It required the entire Alpha of Virginia chapter to pull double duty after hosting a spectacular National convention last fall to host a Swing and Tunk of the entire Society for our youngest chapter this weekend. It took Chairman Emeritus Jim Jenkins, S’58, to write the official petition, requesting that the Serps be the sponsoring chapter for the Alpha of North Carolina. Preeminent loyalty, once again.

I remind you all that our goal in all of this was not to merely start a new chapter. It was instead to create a strong and self-reliant Carolina chapter with an in-place alumni corporation to advise and plan for a viable, sustained future. This can only be done by the ongoing commitment by all of you and – most importantly – by the will and spirit of the four young men we have swung into this Society today.

Like it or not, new initiates and esteemed gentlemen, you have the burden of being very famous in the Society. Sig history will record you as the first class of the Alpha of North Carolina. The torch of preeminent loyalty has been passed into your hands by countless Sig stakeholders. It’s up to all of you to brandish it – to cling to it, tightly - in your efforts to perpetuate the Society in Chapel Hill.

So I charge the new class ... today you are doubtless struggling to comprehend and process a great deal of

“Stella Novis”

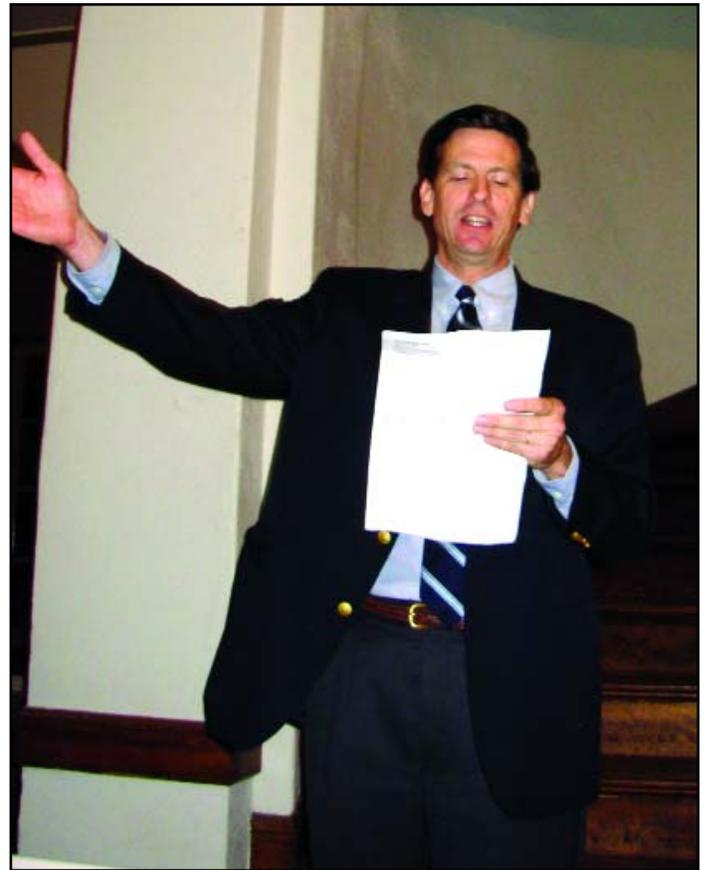
by Brendan James McCurdy, H'80 & Andrew Joseph Steele, H'07

On the occasion of the birth of the Alpha of North Carolina, delivered in Charlottesville, Virginia – April 5, 2008

Behold today from Mount Olympus came,
Our godhead, Leo, with Sigma Phi's flame.
He comes with rarefied air betoken
a wisdom known to few and not spoken.
Friendship, Love and Truth found within us all,
Sigs assembled here in this cherished hall.
Outside mortality in darkness drear,
ripe with decay and unrelenting fear,
knows not the brilliance of our cherished band,
extending friendships with outstretched hand.

Alpha of Alphas our radiant star
calling men from Union near and afar.
The glorious Beta, who can compare?
Truth rests eternal in Bertha's sweet lair.
The Delta stands tall on Geneva's shore,
Batt'ling storms and guarding the Western Door.
Take us to Vermont of Green Mountain Fame,
their Sigma Phi spirit none can declaim.
Ithaca, home to our own Epsilon,
clothed in raiment no mortal puts on.

The blue fairy calls us to Ann Arbor,
convivial joy brimming with ardour.
Wisconsin Sigs: of them, what can we say?
From thrice illustrious bonds never stray.
Berkeley brothers on the Pacific perch'd,
Love lights last with friendship from Leo nursed.
Virginia – our babe – youngest in our line
rising to brilliance from the Serpentine.
Let's not forget Williams and Lehigh,
New Jersey, New York all true Sigma Phi.



Brendan McCurdy, H'80, in good voice as he delivers “Stella Novis” to the initiation gathering

Now speak the reason the godhead is here –
The eternal flame to Chapel Hill draws near.
Of Cromwell, Bowies, Witherspoon we talk,
in rev'rence to those in whose wake we walk.
Rejoice, Sigma Phi, new brothers reborn
Truth burns forever from human dross shorn.
Esto Perpetua our verse proclaims,
To Sigs “Lead or Die” the command remains. ☪

(continued from page 6) information and emotion, for you have certainly been through a challenging period. Today you are at a crossroads which I am certain will lead to great happiness, pride and enjoyment in your future lives. It's appropriate for me to offer pearls of wisdom given to me upon my initiation in 1982 by the late Good Graduate Brother Chester Barstow Eaton, V'30. Chet took me aside after my initiation that winter and said: “Never forget the tenets of our Charge for they represent the values that we as a Society hold

dear and endeavor to live our lives by. Being in Sigma Phi is not a right but a privilege; it is incumbent upon us to live up to the standards of our predecessors. When in the haunts of the lower regions in your time spent around worldlings, remember to walk the Sigma Phi talk. Be a gentleman on campus and in the community. Speak thoughtfully and with eloquence. Look and act the part of a gentleman using the character you promised to employ. Living your life with character is something no man can give and no man

can take away. Instead, living with high character and as a gentleman is a beautiful gift a man gives to himself.”

So, my newly initiated brothers, make us proud. Practice and live the Sigma Phi values which have stood the test of time. Use your membership and your personal examples to embrace and perpetuate the Thrice Illustrious cause in Chapel Hill.

I love you all. I congratulate the newest initiates in Sigma Phi and I raise a glass to the Alpha of North Carolina – Esto Perpetua! ☪

Making it Official: Creating the Charter

by Mike Imirie, M'69 mimirie@aol.com

Hmmm... The opportunity for a new chapter. how wonderful! But in order to make it official, shouldn't there be a formal document – a charter? We hear the term “charter” floated around often enough in discussions about starting a new chapter, but who amongst us has actually seen one?

With no chapter having been founded in 55 years, there was certainly no electronic template on which the Standing & Advisory could rely to create a founding document for the Alpha of North Carolina. There existed no samples in a secure filing cabinet or a Society archive strong-

box. Instead, Society leaders knew that they'd need to create one from scratch. To that end, they sought inspiration from the Alpha of California. Dave Munroe, I'84, volunteered that he knew exactly where his chapter's founding document was. Working together, California S&A Delegate Richard Hsu, I'05, and California active chapter President Matt Bierman, I'06, promptly provided a copy.

With an excellent Sig model for 'look' and the language having been provided, the next step was to decide if and how the passing of the years might have caused a need for language change. Jim Jenkins, S'58, Scott McCrae, V'82, Gregor Nelson, I'76 and Marshall Solem, F'79, went over that document with a fine-toothed comb. Surprisingly little modification was needed.

But how to render the document itself? Society Chairman Marshall Solem explored the options and after searching far and wide for pig-skin decided on parchment as the medium

for North Carolina's charter. With the text having been decided on, there was an obvious need for calligraphy. Marshall collaborated with graphic artist Gregor Nelson on how (and who) to scribe the verbiage. But a concern loomed. What if, after writing the charter, one of the initiates whose name was to be on it dropped out of the pledge program? The effort and expense of hand writing the document would be wasted. Instead it was decided to produce the document electronically using a calligraphic font and a laser printer.

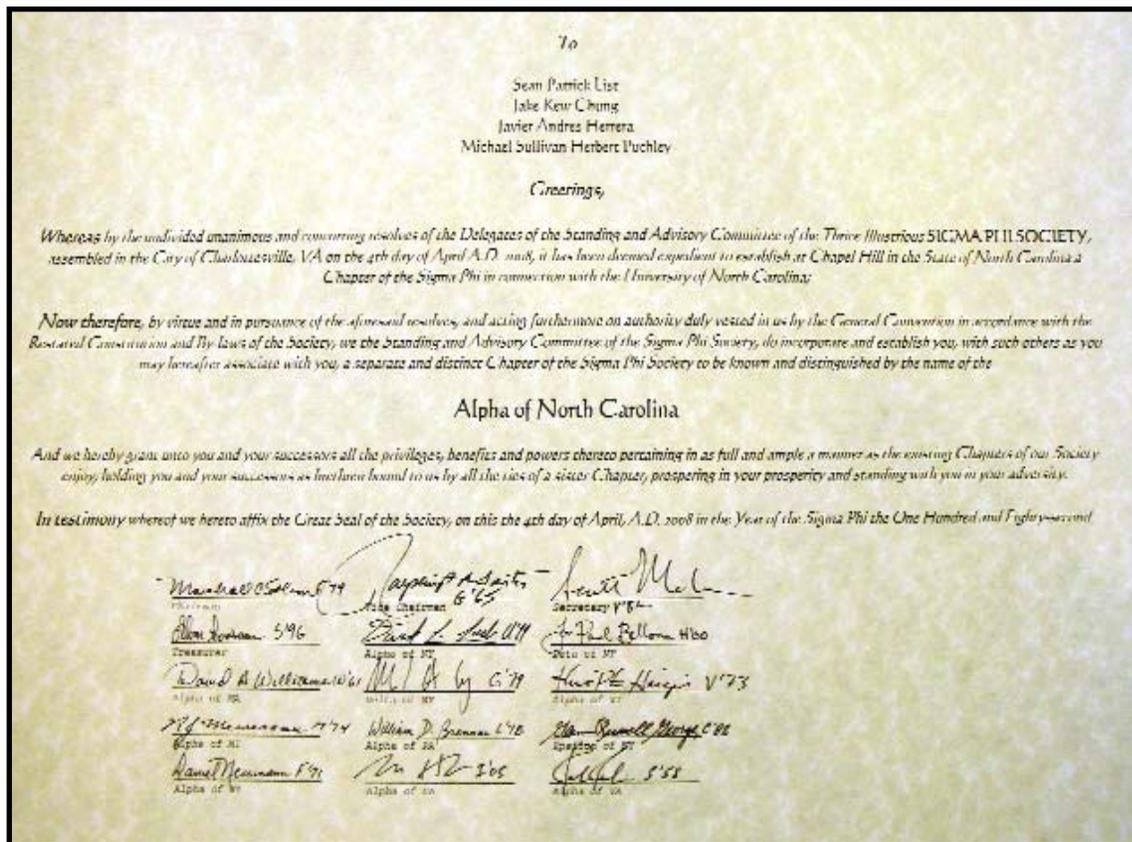
The next challenge was making the document look and, in fact, be official. Marshall needed to render an embossed seal similar to the California charter, but ... how?

Returning to the art supply store where he bought the parchment, he sought their advice. The dialogue suggested using a thin piece of pewter or bronze foil cut in a circle, embossing it with the Society's great seal and then employing industrial-strength glue to attach it to the parchment. The

Chairman puzzled without success over how to cut a perfect circle out of the foil sheets. He referred the matter to his wife and craft hobbyist, Patti, FSS'93, who advised without hesitation that Avery (the label company) makes notorial seals precisely for this purpose! After a quick trip to Staples, Marshall had a box of 50 shiny circular gold seals with starburst edges. Samples were promptly stamped with the Society's great seal. The backing was removed from the very best impression and affixed to the Sig parchment.

The heartbeat of the chapter – the “Sig soul,” you might say – was later added as S&A Delegates and officers in Charlottesville all signed the charter in archival India ink so their signatures would stand the test of time without fading.

Presto! An authentic, if contemporary, charter document: just the kind of Sig posterity piece which would make founders Bowie, Bowie, Cromwell and Witherspoon proud, 180 years later! 



Union's Housewarming Gift for Chapel Hill: "Blast From the Past"

by R. C. Atlee Hodgson, U'05 atlee.hodgson@gmail.com

I had already purchased a nice houseplant for the Alpha of North Carolina. I was, therefore, a bit peeved when pledgemaster B. Patrick Brown, U'05, rang to tell me he had something far better to give the new chapter. Pat explained that, among other artifacts in Union's time-honored archives, he had discovered a letter dated 1858 and addressed to the Alpha of New York from an eager group of students at the University of North Carolina. Believe it or not, that long-ago letter petitioned that a charter be granted by the Society.

As anyone who has recently reviewed his Catalogue can tell you, the Society has a history of denying such requests, whether from Yale or the local Community Tech. Unlike some of our more prolific "McFratty" counterparts, our legacy lies in a network of strength and solidarity, not casual breadth or expansionist folly. However, enough time seems to have passed to avoid being hasty and – 150 years later – it is clear to Brothers everywhere that the University of North Carolina is more than deserving.

And so, as the first weekend of April dawned, four of us Union Sigs made the trip south. Unlike other brothers making that same geographic pilgrimage, we knew that we would be traveling in time as well as space. Heading to Virginia, we were also heading back into the past to fulfill a deed and a destiny that was tabled nearly four thousand years ago. B. Patrick Brown U'05, Jude Michael Mason U'05, Matthew David Kearney U'06, and I, R.C. Atlee Hodgson U'05, made a trip from 2008 ... to 1858 ... and back.

Along the way, here is what we found:

- In 1858, Chapel Hill had just under 450 students enrolled, making it the second largest educational institution in the South, behind University of Virginia with nearly 500.
- The relatively young but fast-



R.C. Hodgson, U'05, presents the heirloom 19th century petition – framed and under glass - to the new chapter.

growing University of Michigan, where the newest chapter of Sigma Phi was founded this same year, also had nearly 500 students.

- By comparison, Union had nearly 1,000 students. At that time, she was the second school in the country, right behind Harvard.

- At this point, Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and Union were known as the Big Four or the "Big IV League" ... which coined the nickname, "The Ivy League."

Sociologically, this makes our Society a real polyglot. She now consists of "Public Ivies," which grew to be so large and great, of the older "Little Ivies" that stayed so comparatively small but exclusive, and the Schenectady "IV" which is no longer an Ivy but replaced by the Epsilon of New York, a modern "Ivy League" University. Union, mother to our traditions, now sits small but sage in the company of

her young and buxom daughters.

With all the growth and change and innovation of years, the Sigma Phi has also grown. In the spirit of that growth and of progress, the brothers of the Alpha could not be more pleased to now count UNC men among our ranks. And so, respectful of our past and with a will to complete those transactions of the soul "temporarily" set aside back in 1858, we were most pleased indeed to keep a promise that was never spoken. To the brothers of the Alpha of North Carolina, on an April day 150 years after being so solicited, we presented a returned copy of your petition, the very one that Pat Brown stumbled upon so fortuitously.

To Our Future, From Your Past, BSL, with best wishes and a hearty welcome into the Society!

And I guess I'll just have to keep that houseplant. ☺

New Initiate Profiles

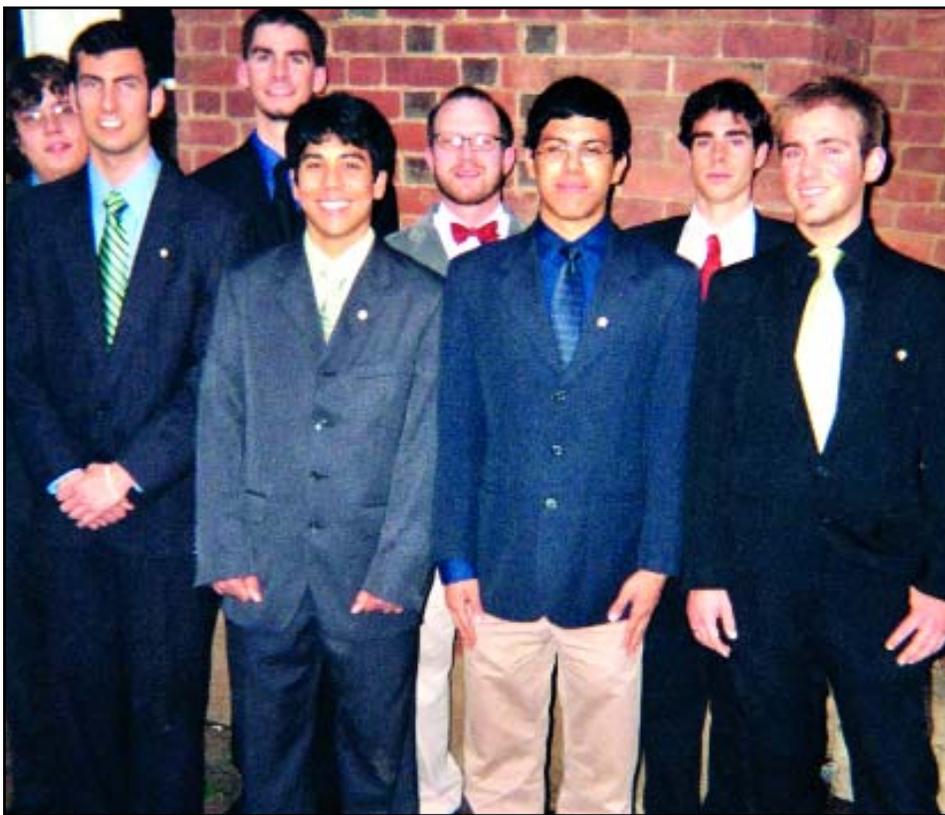
Who are the new Tar Heel Sigs? What are they like? Brothers, these are the Society's undergraduate members at the Alpha of North Carolina.

Jake Kew Chung was born on April 4, 1989 and is the son of Tony and Vicky Chung. He is 19 and a rising sophomore at UNC in Chapel Hill who graduated co-salutatorian from Cary High School in 2007. He was born in Virginia Beach, Virginia but has lived in Cary, North Carolina for the past 10 years. He has one younger sister and a 7-year old Yorkshire terrier named Skoshi. In his spare time he enjoys basketball. He practiced martial arts for over 8 years and has a black belt in Taekwondo. He is half-Japanese, yet fluent in Spanish. He is pursuing a major in pharmacy, which involves two years of undergraduate prerequisite work and four years of professional school.

"Sigma Phi is unlike any other organization that I've become accustomed to. It is more like a fraternity than any other entity, but calling the Society a 'fraternity' belittles the enormity of the Society. The greatness of the Society lies in its size; Sigma Phi is neither extravagant nor inefficient. The Society has just enough... well, everything. It is small, but purposefully so; and it is in this exclusiveness that the Society has prospered. The size of the Society allows closeness and cohesiveness between chapters and individual brothers. Long may she lead... or die."

jkchung@email.unc.edu

Michael Sullivan Herbert Puchley is a 19-year old rising sophomore at the University of North Carolina. His major is geochemistry with a minor in chemistry and creative writing. He was born in Fort Bragg, California, which – to many people's surprise – is not a military base, but rather one of the six places in our country named for the Confederate States Army commanding officer Braxton Bragg. Michael now resides in Burlington, North Carolina. He has been writing poetry for over six



The First Tar Heel Sigs (in the front row from left): Michael Sullivan, Herbert Puchley, Jake Kew Chung, Javier Andres Herrera, and Sean Patrick List

years and is a voracious reader.

"When I arrived at UNC, I actually was dead set against joining any fraternal organization. That changed when I met a student named Sean List, who needed to borrow someone's student ID to do some laundry. One weekend Sean was talking about visiting the Sigma Phi chapter in Virginia and invited me to come along. I had heard him talking about Sigma Phi in preceding weeks and it interested me because what he was describing didn't seem like a regular fraternity. I decided to see for myself.

"When I arrived at the Sig house at the Alpha of Virginia, I was immediately impressed by the age and staying power of the house itself. When I went inside, I turned to the right and I saw several people sitting in leather couches surrounding the hearth and drinking eggnog. Christmas music was softly playing as I realized that the guys sitting there were of different races, backgrounds and creeds. They weren't 'cookie cuttered' like so many other

frats. It struck me that there was character – personality-wise and morality-wise – in these guys. This is why I am a member of the Sigma Phi Society."

puchley@email.unc.edu

Sean Patrick List was born on August 5, 1988 in Walnut Creek, California. For 12 years, he lived there with his parents, Pat & Candy, and his sister Sierra. In 2000, the Lists moved away from the frenzied life of the city to a small rural town named Hayesville, in Southwest North Carolina. Excelling in academia, Sean graduated from Hayesville High School with honors and continued on to the University of North Carolina, where he is currently a Junior. Sean is pursuing a double-major in International Politics & Linguistics with a minor in Germanic Languages. During his ever-scarce spare time, Sean enjoys playing music, hiking, and boating.

splist@email.unc.edu

Javier Andres Herrera was born in Bogota, Colombia, on August 7,

Tar Heel Start-Up: Don't Buy the Realistic

by Steve Wright, S'93 stevetheplow@yahoo.com

When Scott McCrae asked me to write an article about starting the North Carolina chapter from a local alumnus perspective, I instantly said “yes” before considering whether I had time or anything worthwhile to say. Exactly one year earlier I jumped into starting a chapter here in Chapel Hill also without hesitation or reflection. In thinking about it now, I realize that “unthinking irrationality” is the most succinct way I can describe my relationship with this thing represented by two letters of an arcane language.

Why would a thirty-four-year-old with two kids under the age of two and a yearlong crisis at work get involved in starting a frat? Would I really have the time to swing by some cocktail party on a Saturday morning and shoot the breeze with a bunch of guys almost half my age? What use would they have for me? What would I stand to gain? A year of ignoring sensible questions and their sobering answers led me to this April's initiation of the first class of North Carolina Sigs. Pacing back and forth in a situation fairly bizarre to worldly eyes, I was again doing my best against the realistic.

Matt Graham, S'94, the new class' pledge master and a father-to-be wrapping up his MBA at Carolina, probably felt the same as we both drove back from the initiation to Chapel Hill at three in the morning. Ditto for Dave Aylor, S'93, and Jesse Wetzel, S'04, who spent a number of nights on SERP couches during the process rather than respectively completing a dissertation and responding to RFPs for the firm back home. And then there's Mark Holland, S'86, driving four hours



each Tuesday night from Danville, Virginia, to Chapel Hill and back again just to attend a one-hour pledge meeting in Bingham Hall.

Come to think of it, those Virginia actives who traveled to Chapel Hill many a weekend this fall to pass out flyers and meet strangers should have their heads checked as well. When I was in school it was hard enough just to make my first class of the day at 1 P.M. and start the weekend every Thursday night. I had a claim to respectability upon entering The University my first year – that “I'd

never have anything to do with a frat” – and I like to think I've kept that promise, if we're willing to understand these projects with an emotional rather than quotidian sensibility.

Those newest to our group have dared this perspective and hopefully it will bear more impossible successes. Odds are against it in the wider world, but fortunately we continue to post long bets from somewhere else. If we can keep our heads in the clouds and act from the gut I don't doubt we'll be toasting a second class and then a third. Cheers to that. ☺

Postscript from Brother Wright

I don't see my role in this project as Pledge Father, but more of “Oldest Living Rush Chair” as one of our other local alumni put it, motivating the in-town alumni and the new brothers to look ahead. Interestingly, the alumni on the ground here have all taken on roles that align with their offices in the house when they were actives. I was VP/Rush Chair, so my head is all about recruiting and maintaining a strong group. Matt Graham was a Pledge Trainer while an active and this spring led pledge meetings of this first class of UNC Sigs. Dave Aylor was I-Chair while an active and was essential in planning the recent initiation of these UNC Sigs.

(continued from page 8) 1989. He is a bilingual sophomore working towards a dual major in economics and International studies. Javier makes his home in Holly Springs, North Carolina. He's an active young man with interests in swimming, reading,

running, and, of course, video games.

“I am honored to be a founding member of the Alpha of North Carolina. It has been outstanding to meet so many different kinds of people through the Thrice Illustrious, and to be reminded of Sigma Phi's great

diversity.” His hopes for membership in Sigma Phi? “To bring a different perspective based on my having immigrated to this country only four years ago...and to expand my world view in the process.”

jaherrer@email.unc.edu ☺

Winging Our Way to Charlottesville

by Bill Mills, F'70 bmills@jonlancaster.net

(Sigs have always been independent men, willing to take "the road less traveled" on behalf of the Thrice Illustrious. The following story illustrates that such time honored behaviors were surely obvious in connection with the founding of the Carolina chapter.)

I ran into my friend, Rex Jones, F'72, in a bookstore awhile back and asked him about a recent fraternity meeting I had missed. He said they had discussed attending the initiation of the pledges of our newest chapter in North Carolina. Rex suggested that he, my good friend Sam Moore, F'70, and I should fly out for the event and asked if I would like to do so. Since I am a pilot, own a plane, and often look for good excuses to fly somewhere, I said "yes." I suggested we could bring along someone else and that someone turned out to be active Eric Murn, F'06.

Saturday, April 5, dawned bright and beautiful in Madison. We revved up my Bonanza A36 and departed at about 8:30 A.M. I scheduled a fuel stop in Dayton as Rex, also a pilot, asked to breathe some of the same air the Wright Brothers had many years ago. Dayton is about two hours from Madison, going around and south of

Chicago. Our flight was at an altitude of 5,000 feet and we all noted how flat the entire Midwest was. We motored into Dayton Cox International airport, borrowed an airport van, and went out for lunch. We ate and – after Rex breathed some of that Wright Brothers air – we got back into the skies for our next leg into Charlottesville.

We departed Dayton, flying over Wright Patterson Air force base and east over the rest of Ohio, West Virginia and then Virginia. At our altitude of 7,000 feet, we could see the Appalachian Mountains ahead of us in ridge after ridge running perpendicular to our course. There was still a little snow left on a few peaks but otherwise a beautiful green view out the windows greeted my passengers who were still awake. The second to last ridge hid the Shenandoah Valley with its numerous farms stretching all across the horizon. We crested the last ridge, which is at 5,200 feet, and were cleared to land in

Charlottesville.

Upon landing, I went into the base operations building, where I was surprised by Dan Neumann, F'71, whom I hadn't seen in many years. Dan was our welcoming party and informed me that we had about one hour before the ceremony was to begin. It seems that the eastern part of the country does not run on the same time as Midwesterners do! We got our car and followed Dan in his Mustang GT, an anniversary present, to the hotel.

After all of us changed, we drove to the Sigma Phi Place and found it locked since the ceremony was about to begin. We found a window open so we took the lightest of us – Eric – and boosted him in. Eric unlocked the door and we hustled to the ceremony, getting there just in time.

This was the first initiation I had attended outside of Wisconsin. I was struck by how similar it was to ours. The other remarkable thing was how



Wandering Wisconsin Birds Bill Mills, F'70, Rex Jones, F'72, Sam Moore, F'70 & Eric Murn, F'06, en route to Charlottesville on April 5

A Journey is Completed

by Pete Smith, U'67 psmith85@nycap.rr.com

Sigma Phi ritual is in my blood. Ever since the passing of esteemed gentleman and consummate Sigma Phi General Secretary Wink Mayer, L'10, my old friend, Len Kagan U'66, and I have enjoyed performing every ritual of initiation at the Alpha of New York. When word came that the Society would be initiating a pledge class for the first new chapter in 55 years on April 5, I knew that this was an event I couldn't miss, and that an alumni presence from Union was essential. Fortunately, my wife, a Sig Sister, understands these things, and – after my impassioned Sig sales pitch – she said “I think you should go.” That was all I needed to hear....

Surprisingly, in my 41 years as a Sig, I had never visited the Alpha of Virginia, where the new Alpha of North Carolina was to receive its charter. As I stood on the steps of the Sig Place in Charlottesville, absorbing the beauty of Mr. Jefferson's campus, I wondered what kind of reception might await an aging Yankee wandering bird. I soon had my answer, as a cab pulled up and discharged a group of Berkeley actives who were easily 40

years my junior. Badges were displayed, the grip was exchanged, and in a moment we were sharing Sig stories and laughter. The hospitality shown by the Virginia Sigs was warm and bountiful.

I could feel with a thrill that we were making history as we entered the sanctum sanctorum for the initiation of only the fourth new chapter in 100 years. How fitting that – on behalf of the Alpha of Alphas – David Loeb, U'99, and I had the privilege of intoning the majestic opening cadences of our ritual, set down so many years ago by Chester Averill, U'1827.

Following the traditional libations and banquet, the active Union brothers presented a remarkable artifact for the archives of our newest chapter: a framed copy of a petition from students at the University of North Carolina for a charter from Sigma Phi, presented to the Alpha for consideration over 100 years ago!

I couldn't help bringing to mind the Society's four young founders, who first gathered somewhere in North College at Schenectady's Union College on a winter's night in 1827. I



Pete Smith, U'67

wondered if they ever imagined that their infant men's society would continue to flourish 181 years later.

On this happy April night, as the newest star joined the firmament of Sigma Phi, we felt that a long journey was completed. 🌀

(continued from page 10) hot the room was! A wonderful job was done by the Virginia Sigs and the luminaries and all the Brothers from across the country.

Upon ritual completion, we adjourned to cooler climes and had a chance to meet the new initiates. We also mixed delightfully with Sigs from all over the country, both young and old, of which I now find myself among the latter! Our new North Carolina Brothers are great additions to our Society. We wished them the very best, with many speeches made and many drinks consumed. Suffice it to say, it was worth the trip to be part of that important event! Once the younger Brothers started to do what younger Brothers do on these occasions, some of us older Brothers adjourned to a

local watering hole to watch Final Four basketball games and enjoy a few beverages. Given my standing in the “old Brothers” category, I'm proud to report that we actually stayed up until midnight ... Eastern time, at least!

We awoke the following morning to a steady rain and a dreary day. Rex, Sam and I had agreed we wanted to walk the campus before departing. We found the campus of Mr. Jefferson's University to be unique with its architecture, buildings and gardens.

Before long, we got a call from Eric. At the airport, we loaded up and took off into a very wet and dark sky. We climbed up to 5,000 feet before being turned west towards home. We continued our climb to 8,000 feet and were in rain and clouds for the first 40 minutes. As we approached the eastern

part of Ohio, we started to catch glimpses of ground through the lower cloud deck. We finally broke out into clear weather in Ohio with tailwinds to boot. We had planned to once again stop in Dayton, but – due to favorable winds – we continued on to Muncie, Indiana, for our fuel stop. We climbed back to 8,000 feet; about 1.5 hours later, we were back in Madison. The trip took a total of 4 hours each direction. Rex was a very competent copilot; the two in the back were very competent sleepers!

It was a great reason to make a “road trip.” Meeting the new initiates was as much fun as spending time with my Badger contemporaries. For me, “Wandering Birds” now has a new meaning. I might soon look for another opportunity to do it again. 🌀

Chapter Founding: What They Said

I thought it was not only momentous but truly a worthy challenge for all the brothers to work together at Virginia to swing in a new chapter. It was fun to learn a bit about everyone's different 'local flavor' to their process and to give a little input from the Alpha, too. Our same group traveled only two weeks later and met up with the new Ts at V to see another Swing which was great fun and another fascinating anthropological trip. Overall, despite the little differences, we are ALL Sigma Phi."

R.C. Atlee Hodgson, U'05
atlee.hodgson@gmail.com

Celebrating at the Alpha of Virginia was a combination of new experiences for me. I had a great time meeting brothers from other chapters, discussing differences in Swing and anticipating the excitement of convention this fall. On one hand, it was a lot of fun; on the other, it really showed me the extension of Sigma Phi's reach. It was clear how excited and hospitable every Virginia Sig was to have us, and that energy was shared by everyone. I think the founding Sigs of North Carolina are great guys. To show our approval and welcome them to the bonds, a couple of us from Wisconsin baptized them from the balcony...water only, of course!

Eric Murn, F'06
ericmurn@gmail.com

I was at the swing at Charlottesville and I saw that weekend as a great Sig success. The impressive turnout of both actives and alumni from so many chapters showed what an important and historic event it was. As they start their Sig journey on a new campus, it was no doubt a good thing for our new Brothers from the Alpha of North Carolina to realize how deep the roots of the Sigma Phi go."

Matthew Kearney, U'06

It was remarkable to see how selfless and caring so many Sigs from across the country and all of our chapters were as they worked for the benefit of four young men they'd never met before. It was clearly evident that this was a very important event for the Society. I admired the efforts required by the Virginia Sigs in/near Chapel Hill as they clearly prepared these four young men very well for initiation. Their knowledge of Sig history and principles is truly impressive."

Glenn George, C'82
ggeorge001@yahoo.com

It's hard to overstate the significance of our first expansion success in over 50 years. I'm deeply grateful for the tenacity displayed by Marshall and Scott as they labored tirelessly for at least three years to bring the Society's vision into reality. I'm also impressed by their understanding that this is but a first step, that to assure success, more time, attention, and support will be necessary. I'm thrilled for this first, essential step at UNC and hope that we get good enough at this process that we can do this again, and again, much sooner than 50 years from now.

Dan Neumann, F'71
dneumann@orgdynamics.com

The creation of the Alpha of North Carolina was a momentous event that bodes well for the future prosperity and strength of our Society. As the vote was cast on that Friday morning of April 4th, 2008, to grant the first new charter in 55 years, I was moved by the historic nature of the moment...and exceedingly grateful to have been on hand in Charlottesville. For all of us, this vote and the signing of the new charter was marked by the warmest feelings of happiness for our brotherhood. We knew that by this step we were making it possible for future generations of students at the University of North Carolina to have

the possibility to enjoy the unique happiness found within the circle of our brotherhood. *Esto perpetua!*"

Jim Jenkins, S'58
jljenkins@rcn.com

I saw the Society coming together as a whole to welcome the newly-initiated brothers and chapter at UNC. It was surreal sitting in the S&A meeting as they were reading the UNC charter, the selection of the founding fathers, and each chapter representative signing the charter. You could feel the electricity in the air, for we were all witnessing history, much like the creation of all the previous chapters before us. There was a very emotional bond between all the active and alumni brothers that attended. We witnessed true joy from our newly-initiated UNC brothers as they joined the Sigma Phi Society.

Scott Hekel, F'95
scott.d.hekel@cummings

This was a very proud occasion for me, for – in my time as a Sig – I had always thought of us as being an established, 9-chapter fraternity. It reminded me that, 150 years ago the Society founded chapters every few years. Although anti-fraternity sentiment and many competing fraternities makes it far more difficult in the modern era to expand, we can't forget that there are potential Sigs at many other prestigious schools. We need to seek those good men out. These four Tar Heel Sigs must serve as a living reminder to Sigs that we have the capacity to grow, to strengthen and to expand.

Jordan Raetz, M '06
jraetz@umich.edu

Your own comments to share about this event or any other? Send them to Sigma Phi National Headquarters, Post Office Box 4633, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-4633.

Minor Bylaw Changes Proposed

Society Bylaws are subject to orderly change from time to time. These Bylaw changes (below) are proposed by the Standing & Advisory Committee for participant consideration and vote at the 2008 Convention. Pursuant to the Society’s constitution, notice is hereby given of these pending proposals:

ARTICLE X Charters

Section 1: A Charter represents the Society’s formal authorization, by vote of the General Convention, for a Chapter of Sigma Phi to exist at a college or university at either the undergraduate or graduate level or both. A Charter extends to a Chapter the rights and privileges of a membership in the Society and places upon the Chapter the duty to uphold the ideals and traditions of the Society, to advance the Society’s purposes, and to fulfill the Chapter’s obligations with respect to membership in the Society. By accepting a Charter a Chapter agrees to be governed by this Restated Constitution and By-Laws and the actions of the General Convention of the Society. Charters may be granted and revoked as outlined in Article XI of this Restated Constitution and By-Laws.

A. Charters Outstanding:

Sigma Phi Society has granted, by vote of the General Convention, and/or the S&A Committee, Charters of membership in Sigma Phi Society, Inc. to the following Chapters:

- 1. The Alpha of New York located at Union College, Schenectady, New York, March 4, 1827 (graduate and undergraduate).
- 2. The Beta of New York located at Hamilton College, Clinton, New York, 1831 (graduate and undergraduate).
- .
- .
- .
- 11. The Alpha of Virginia at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, February 27, 1954 (graduate and undergraduate).
- 12. The Alpha of North Carolina at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina April 4, 2008 (graduate and undergraduate)

ARTICLE XI Granting of New Charters

Section 2. If the S&A Committee shall vote to grant a new charter, the S&A Committee shall immediately appoint a sponsoring chapter and name a Committee of Founders consisting of at least one alumnus of each chapter together with the Chairman of the Standing and Advisory Committee, the Vice Chairman of the S&A Committee, the Secretary of the Society, and the Treasurer of the Society ex-officio (the “Founders Committee”) who shall be responsible for assisting and nurturing the new chapter in its establishment. The S&A Committee shall further elect by a majority vote the initial members of the new chapter, which membership shall be effective upon the formal ceremony of initiation rites conducted by the Society members appointed by the Chairman.

ARTICLE XIII Insurance

The Standing and Advisory Committee shall have authority to contract with one or more insurance providers for liability and/or property insurance coverage for Chapters and Organizations of the Society. Where any terms or conditions associated with such insurance as agreed to by a vote of the full Standing and Advisory Committee are in conflict with any provisions of these Restated Constitution and By-Laws, such terms and conditions shall supersede and be superior to any such Restated Constitution and By-Laws provision. ~~This Article XIII, unless otherwise extended at a duly noticed and called Convention, shall become null and void on January 1, 2008.~~

This Restated Constitution and By-Laws, adopted by the General Convention of the Society held in ~~Ann Arbor, Michigan~~ Madison, Wisconsin on September ~~17 20, 2005~~ 2008 supersedes all previous Constitutions and By-Laws of the Society. ☺

Please review these items and be in touch with your S&A Delegate or prepare to vote your view at Convention '08 in Madison.

New Website Helps Brothers Keep in Touch

Have you visited the new Sigma Phi website lately? The new and dramatically improved site is still located at www.sigmaphi.org, but it now brings our Web presence into the 21st century, taking advantage of more features and capabilities of the new platform.

If you haven’t already discovered the new site, check it out the next time you’re on-line. You have to “register” your first visit to the site (just follow easy instructions on the home page). You’ll be asked to enter your address, e-mail, etc., so that our records are complete and up-to-date with your latest information. Once registered, review the list of Lost Sigs in the “brothers only” section and share any information you have about those Sigs so we can restore the tie that binds.

We hope you’ll agree the new site is a vast improvement over our old one, and we look forward to your comments about making the site even more useful. ☺



Largest SPEF-Funded Project to Break Ground

by Dell Hutchinson, I'71, SPEF President dellhutchinson@yahoo.com

A significant “bricks and mortar” project at Sigma Phi Place in Berkeley is scheduled to start immediately upon completion of final exams in May 2008. Contractor Fire Protection Unlimited of Santa Rosa, California, has been engaged to install sprinklers throughout the “Sigma Phi Thorsen House.” Finalization of the sprinkler installation project will pave the way for other necessary repair projects and restoration work at the House. The project will be financed with funds contributed to Sigma Phi Educational Foundation (SPEF).

Here is the history of this project. Back in the 1990's, SPEF teamed with the Alumni Corporation of the Alpha of California to secure a Private Letter Ruling from the Internal Revenue Service. There was concern that the IRS would not allow deductions for contributions by Sigs for “bricks and mortar” projects at Sigma Phi Place in Berkeley. The fact that the Sigma Phi Thorsen House is a significant example of the work of Arts & Crafts architects Greene & Greene and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, provides evidence of a public benefit and enables tax deductible giving. Thus, the IRS approved our ruling request. Monies have been raised since the late '90s sufficient to fund this work.

Installation of sprinklers is required in Berkeley for all hotels, motels, dormitories, rooming houses,



Dave Dallas, S'79, Dell Hutchinson, I'71, Scott McCrae, V'82 & Bob Mersereau, M'74 at the April Tar Heel initiation

fraternities and sororities as a result of the Berkeley Fire Safety Ordinance passed in the late 1990s. Compliance with this statute is a condition of approval of future building permits.

We were required by the terms of the Internal Revenue Service's Private Letter Ruling to effectuate an appropriate third-party review process to ensure that tax deductible dollars are used to fund only projects which are in the public interest. This requirement was met via a donation of a conservation easement on Sigma Phi Place to California Preservation Foundation (CPF), a public interest charity with expertise in architecturally significant properties. CPF holds easements on a number of significant buildings. On behalf of the California Alpha, Architect Thomas Saxby, I'79, has

approved project plans drafted by Fire Protection Unlimited. The plans have also been submitted to Architect Montgomery Anderson, principal of a local but unrelated architectural firm. Mr. Anderson had reviewed the plans on behalf of CPF and provided informal approval. Tim Moran, I'76, will perform electrical work supported by active brother Scott Earnest, I'07. The plan is to complete the work by the end of June in order to allow summer boarders, a significant source of revenue for the Alpha.

This project is another example of the remarkable work being done by Sigma Phi Educational Foundation. SPEF is dedicated to projects to support and maintain Sigma Phi chapters. You can donate today over the Web at sigmaphi.org/donations. 



Since the publication of the December 2007 edition of the *Flame*, we have learned of the deaths of the following Sig brothers:

Baldwin, John C. Jr., H'34 12 Feb 06	Hutchison, S. Duy, H'41 03 Aug 07	Payne, William B., S'64 04 May 07
Cullen, James T., M'54 20 Dec 07	Jackson, Robert B., L'31 01 Feb 99	Petri, Camillo F., H'36 20 May 06
Cutler, James W., U'21 12 Dec 07	Leblanc, Eugene G., G'59 01 April 06	Pickard Jr., Henry A., W'49
Dugan, Michael W., L'54 14 Mar 08	Lowe, Robert B., U'39 10 Jan 08	Reynolds, Marcus T., W'47 20 Sept 07
Fletcher, Richard M., M'49 26 Sept 07	Marks, Lewis T., L'37 31 May 01	Rich, Stanley H., G'39 18 July 05
Fogarty Jr., Walter J., I'58 16 May 07	McCreary, Dustin C., G'49 25 June 06	Ripple III, Ezra H., W'29
Grupe, George W., I'58 01 June 07	Menzel Jr., John, U'54 28 May 06	Springstead, Ralph E., G'43 10 July 07
Haynes, Laurence S., M'42 01 Feb 06	Minge, Lawrence H., I'32 10 Oct 06	Van Ingen, James, G'50 29 July 07
Herschberger, Clarence, F'46 25 Jan 07	Partch, Robert E., F'30 22 Nov 98	Warner, Everett F., L'39
Howe, Albert B., I'49 11 July 07		White, Michael V., U'62 16 Feb 99



Herb Foster, I'59 writes: "Two of closest friends and Sig brothers passed away this past year: Jim Fogerty, I'58, in May followed in June by his pledge Brother George Grupe I'58. Jim, George, Fred Offenbach I'58, (also deceased) and I had the opportunity to attend the Sigma Phi annual Convention at Union College in 1961. It is a trip that we reminisced about for years. The stories, like all tales, got better each year. Being the "last man standing," I will greatly miss them." Herb's address is 127 Camino Don Miguel, Orinda, FL 94563

"Sorry to report my wife and Sig Sister Jackie Melhop died here at home on 12/02/07." – **Carl Mehlhop, M'46**
cmehlhop@earthlink.net

We have this word from **John Pearson, Jr, G'73**: "Retired from the insurance business. Thank God! Am enjoying working in a large book warehouse where I can read and check out all of the new history books being published ... as befits an enthusiastic history major from Hobart College. I've enjoyed being a Revolutionary War re-

enactor with the 23rd Royal Welsh Fusilliers, Grenadier battalion for the last last 20 years + 4th Battalion Pennsylvania Continentals." John lives at 5 Meade Road, Ambler PA 19002.

"2007 was an exciting year for my family," advises **Scott Wertheim, U'91**. "On June 7, my wife and I welcomed Sienna into our world. Debbi and I are loving our role as parents and the smiles make up for all the sleepless nights. In addition, I changed jobs, joining CapTrust Financial Advisors as a retirement plan consultant. I am also proud and grateful to report that my brother, Craig, returned home safely from serving our country in Iraq." wertheise@yahoo.com

"I'm now living with my wife in the Chambrel retirement community in Roswell, GA. Our days of country living are now over but fondly remembered." – **Bob Barrows, C'37**
B_Barrows@bellsouth.net

Benjamin Taylor Jr, I'36, has moved from his home in San Antonio, TX to the 'Army Residence Community.' Although built by Army officers for retired Army officers, it now accepts retired Air Force, Navy, Marine and Coast Guard retired officer personnel with 20+ years of active military service located in San Antonio, TX. "It's great to relax and let someone else do the housekeeping chores and the cooking.

Luanne, my wife of 59 years and I are both in good health and semi-active." Lexpence@stax.rr.com

"I just recently (1/31/08) retired from the company I founded in 1983 and have been designated as Chairman Emeritus. I am honored." – **Erick Laine, F'52** elaine@cutco.com

Chris Garcia, C'77, retired from the US Army as a Colonel on August 31, 2007, with 25 years' service. He served in military intelligence for five years and the balance of his career in the JAG Corps. Christopher is now a student at Virginia Theological Seminary pursuing a dream to be a parish priest. He lives with wife Cheryl and children Elizabeth (8th grade) and Thomas (6th grade) in Springfield VA. cmg22153@gmail.com

Centennial tidings have been received from **Franklin K. Hoyt, W'27**. "I just celebrated my 100th birthday!" Franklin receives mail at P.O. Box 337, Duxbury, MA 02331

Ed Strong, U'47, furnishes this update: "Nancy and I celebrate our 50th anniversary this year. I am active as a volunteer in our Town Police Department one day a week. The news of a new chapter in formation is most interesting. Good Sig wishes for their success. Esto perpetua." edwstrong@hotmail.com

2008 Dues - Second Notice

In our 181st year, some facets of Sigma Phi remain constant.

Brotherhood. Sharing. Expanded horizons. A profound and thankful awareness for the fraternal vision of Brothers Bowie, Bowie, Cromwell and Witherspoon.

And the need for your personal support. Your dues each year enable the Society's publishing, training, and expansion efforts. Without active support from Sig alumni, there's no progress in those key areas, just as there would have been no Sigma Phi at all had the Brothers Bowie, Witherspoon and Cromwell not put a brave stake in the ground in Schenectady in 1827.



Please mail your dues check (\$50 for classes before 2002; \$30 for those initiated after), payable to Sigma Phi Society, to Sigma Phi, P. O. Box 4633, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-4633.

"Among so few, Brothers, the influence of each one is deeply felt."

Calling All Sigs to Madison to Celebrate Alpha of Wisconsin's Centennial & 177th Annual Convention: September 19 – 21, 2008

The Alpha of Wisconsin extends a warm Midwestern invitation to brother Sigs of all chapters near and far, young and not so young, to join in the rollicking celebration of 100 years on the campus of the University of Wisconsin in Madison. We're fervent in our hope the turnout will far surpass the rather serious-looking crowd who joined together in Chicago's Congress Hotel on October 31, 1908, for the Alpha's founding dinner, pictured here.

Even as Wisconsin Sigs of all generations are expected to descend upon Madison to celebrate their chapter's 100th anniversary, the Alpha is hoping that Sigs of all the chapters of our band will use this convention as the opportunity to organize reunions of their chapters, especially among brothers in the Midwest who are seldom able to return to their home chapters. Make the Wisconsin Sigma Phi Place your second "Sig home."

Give Sig brothers you haven't seen for much too long a call. Send them e-mails. Begin organizing your chapter's reunion this fall in Madison. Let them know that you and your wife – kids, as well? – are planning to attend and you're counting on seeing their families there, too! We'll make banquet seating arrangements to accommodate reunion groups who wish to dine

together to catch up on college experiences...and all the days since.

Numerous special events are planned, including a variety of Saturday afternoon tours and activities for those interested in enjoying some of Madison's greatest attractions. They include Wisconsin's state capitol (similar in appearance to the U.S. Capitol, only 3.5'



Inauguration Banquet for the Wisconsin Alpha on October 31, 1908 in Chicago's Auditorium Annex

shorter), the 150-year-old UW campus, and Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin studio/home in nearby Spring Green, among so many others. There's also talk of a Sig golf tournament or perhaps a disc golf tournament for those who are game.

The impending Wisconsin chapter newsletter ("Alpha Architect") will pro-

vide further details. In addition, a detailed Centennial/Convention invitation will be mailed to all Wisconsin and Midwest Sigs in mid summer. To minimize headaches, we'll provide banquet-evening shuttle service and baby sitting. That way, young Sigs and Sig Sisters in waiting can be taken care of while their parents enjoy Saturday's banquet festivities in the Great Hall Ballroom of the historic Wisconsin Union.

But don't wait! Book your hotel rooms at the Best Western Inntowner or Madison Concourse Hotel, where blocks will be reserved at special group rates until mid July and mid August, respectively. For phone numbers and other more detailed information, refer to page 5 of the Fall edition of the "Alpha Architect" on-line in the "Brothers Only/Publications" section of our national website at www.sigmaphi.org.

Centennial/Convention organizers will continue firming up arrangements aimed at assuring a

terrific Sig occasion for everyone who takes part. Feel free to contact Chairman **Alex Borden**, F'05, with specific questions or to make special needs known by e-mailing borden@wisc.edu or calling **651-308-3982**.

Plan to make memories in Madison. We're looking forward to greeting you in September. Viva la Sigma Phi! 🍷



Sigma Phi FLAME

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
POST OFFICE BOX 4633
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Please check the name and address below and notify us of any corrections. Use extra space for "News of Interest" for the next edition of The Flame.

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