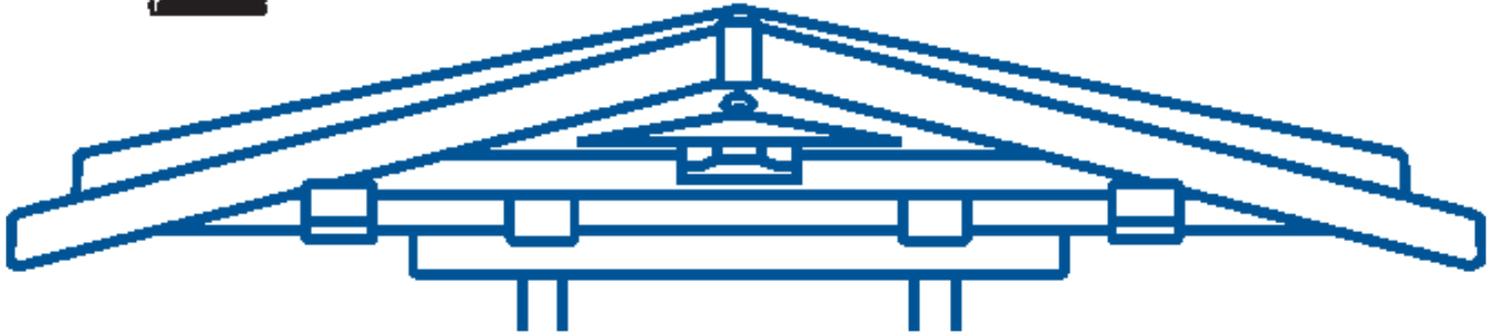




Sigma Phi

FLAME

NUMBER 113 • JULY 2009



178th National Sigma Phi Convention

24 - 26 September 2009 • Berkeley, California

Registration Information Within on Pages 8 & 9!

The Chairman's Message: "Coasting"

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

My grandfather used to have a sign in his office which read: "Anyone who is coasting along is going downhill." Discussing the travails of GM over the weekend with a good Sig friend revealed that, in many (though certainly not all) cases, the difference between those who have lost their jobs vs. those who have kept them is whether or not those individuals have kept their skills up to date – not coasted.

As the Board of Directors of the Society, it's the duty of the Standing and Advisory Committee's to make sure that Sigma Phi doesn't find itself coasting. As I look back on the past several years, I feel good about many things Sigma Phi has accomplished, with our new chapter at UNC as perhaps the most exciting. But as I view the ever evolving landscape Sigma Phi faces on our host campuses, I see that we still have much to do to sustain our relevancy and not find ourselves headed towards the proverbial downhill run.

One needn't look far to find commentary about shifting demographics and the different needs and psyche of "Generation Y" (a.k.a., "Millennials") – the generation that makes up our active chapters these days. It's not hard to imagine that the approach we take to various aspects of running our chapters needs to change to adapt to the needs of these aspiring students. Similarly, as any of you with kids in college know, the college/university environment has

changed significantly in the past twenty years. The level of programming has increased dramatically. At the same time, the level of scrutiny and expectation that various stakeholders have for organizations like Sigma Phi has increased enormously. Campus administrators, parents, insurance providers, and even American society at large are looking at college life – and the relevancy of its supporting organizations – like never before.

For Sigma Phi to sustain our relevance in this challenging environment, there are many things about our programming that need to evolve, from how we recruit new members to how we help equip them to be successful and compete in today's ultra competitive market. To that end, Society Secretary Scott McCrae, V'82, working closely with our administrative office and the leaders from the National Interfraternity Conference, has outlined a plan entitled "Sigma Phi Renaissance." The details of the program are articulated elsewhere in this edition of the Flame. I believe this bold, thoughtful program will be vital to this Society's continued longevity.

The success of Renaissance will require commitment and dedication on the part of all of us. We'll need increased alum involvement to help with local programming at the chapters. We'll need additional resources at the national level to fund the development and dissemination of these programs as well as training for participating alumni. Your



Marshall Solem, F'79

continued support of Sigma Phi as we embark on this endeavor has never been more important. As you read through the details of this cornerstone plan, consider your ability to contribute to and support the Renaissance Program. Direct any questions/suggestions to Scott McCrae (scottmccrae@comcast.net).

Having recently passed my milestone 50th birthday (celebrated with many Sigs, by the way), it's only natural to ponder whether I'm now on my own personal downhill slide. While I've certainly begun to see signs chronologically, I can tell you from a "living life" perspective it's just not the case. I'm probably in better physical condition than I've been in several years. I'm still growing in my career. On the home front, I'm gearing up for even more interesting (!) parenting experiences as my two children head into their teen years.

Coasting is not an option for me, and I hope you'll join me in making sure it's not an option for Sigma Phi, either. 🌟

Sigma Phi

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

EDITOR: MIKE IMIRIE M'69
mimirie@aol.com

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Sigma Phi Home Page: www.sigmaphi.org



Kudos & Thanks ...

... to the following Sigs for their articles, information or suggestions supporting this issue of the *Flame*: Tom Bleazarde, H'54, Ted Bosley, I'73, Jack Edmondson, U'41, David Elias, I'92, David Hornblower, H'83, George Ketterer, F'65, Sean List, T'08, Andy Mansfield, M'06, Scott McCrae, V'82, Tim Starr, G'05 & Josh Taxson, I'95.

Issue after issue, we solicit Sig perspectives from real Sigs in all walks of life. Each shared viewpoint improves the quality and readability of the periodical in which it appears. Each is a genuine gift to our readers, coast to coast: a modest, personal testimonial about brotherhood. Contact **Mike Imirie, M'69** (mimirie@aol.com) with your feedback, suggestions, photographs and – of course – Sig stories.

From the Secretary

by Scott McCrae, V'82 scottmccrae@comcast.net

As we know in Sigma Phi, the word 'gem' doesn't always mean precious stones. Sometimes an old relic, letter, catalogue or like archana can reveal an aspect of our past about which we know nothing. At face value, such gems may not show intrinsic worth. Upon a second inspection, however, they often prove priceless. Several months ago, I was handed such gems from a cousin of a Sig whose wings had recently fluttered for the spirit land. These gems – true jewels, in my view – were editions of the 'Sigma Phi Flame' from 1920 to 1932, including the very first one.

I was surprised by the publication's format. The early issues are considerably different than our modern day editions. These pioneering 'Flames' took the form of small booklets of from 80 to 100 pages. They contained an incredible wealth of information about the great men of our Society in those days and how the Society carried out its business. I saw photographs and read articles by Brothers whose names I had only seen on plaques or chapter house portraits ... 'gems', each and every one!

What I learned in sum from this slice of our history is that Sigma Phi has an incredible legacy of alumni contribution, both financially and in other ways. That legacy has allowed our chapters to navigate truly turbulent waters...and stand the tests of time.

One of these stories introduced Perry Melville Shepard, G'1900, who took it upon himself in 1925 to raise \$85,000.00 in seven months from approximately 150 Delta Sigs to purchase the new Western Lion's Lair. Perry's remarkable success bought the house, set up a \$30,000.00 endowment fund to maintain the property, endowed an annual scholarship, and employed \$3,000.00 to create one of the finest personal libraries on campus. One Sig. Astounding results.

As I read these old publications, the story that most impacted me was in the January 1930 edition announcing the 1929 retirement of Philip J. Ross, V'1891, as the first "Permanent Secretary" of the Society. Philip was chosen as Secretary in 1911; his 18 years of service were truly revolutionizing, bringing about tremendous unity within the Society. He was the

first Secretary to travel to the chapters and worked assiduously to use the collective knowledge and resources of our alumni and S&A to improve and strengthen all of the chapters. As Secretary, he realized that in order to create unity among our alumni, we needed to have up-to-date information detailing each member's name and address. He also fostered Sigma Phi alumni clubs around the country as well as in London and Paris.

When he retired, the Chairman of the Convention appointed a committee consisting of Henry Prince, G' 1878, Guy Shipler, G' 1902, and William C. Mayer, L'1910, to prepare a farewell resolution. It was noted that Brother Ross "brought to the Society a native endowment of a high sense of duty, high ideals, sturdy common sense and tirelessness, and has made of the position a powerful agency for unity and strength in the Fraternity." Clearly, Philip Ross was a Sig of vision, action and inspiration. This rings all the more true when we consider that he inspired the legendary Wink Mayer, L'1910, to ultimately serve as General Secretary for nearly 30 years, from 1942-71!

These gems have inspired me to think about my legacy. How can I make the Secretary's position more useful or more inspiring? How can I contribute in such a way as to help perpetuate the remarkable Sig values of my predecessors?

Sigma Phi has faced major changes over the past decade, making it necessary to reassess how we operate as an organization. Just as Ross saw the need to self-evaluate and use creativity and foresight to make things better, I realized that societal changes and the changing needs of this Society's stakeholders are causing Sigma Phi to take similar measures.

During my six year tenure as General Secretary, the S&A has been relatively proactive. We have started the first new chapter in 55 years, instituted the scholars-in residence program, put into place a fully modern web site and really increased the accuracy of our data base and member information. Just as the gems of the past reveal a legacy of illustrious men stepping up in the face



Scott McCrae, V'82

of great need, we will need to look hard to find more of these men, moving forward. As the pace of change quickens, Sigma Phi needs to remain vigilant and proactive in the way it operates. The best of our Greek peers have assiduously been retooling and their efforts have been rewarded. In order to "lead or die" we must live up to our legacy and do the same. In the hope that someday our efforts and ideas of a Societal "renaissance" can serve as an inspirational gem to future Sig generations, we need to band together now so that a Society dedicated to the values of Friendship, Love and Truth is not permitted to fade into mere memory.

Changes in our world place new demands on all Greek organizations. Host institutions are requiring more local educational programming and involvement from national fraternities. Insurance carriers continue to push for greater and more comprehensive risk management programming. Alumni corporations look to their actives to recruit new members at levels which sustain reasonable budgets. Collegiate parents want their sons to live in chapter houses that are safe and responsibly operated. Research in higher education tells us today's students are looking for a meaningful experience when they consider Greek Life. In order for Sigma Phi to remain relevant and competitive with our fraternal peers, we must retool our programming and initiatives to answer the increasing demands of our various stakeholders.

The article that follows introduces the Sigma Phi "Renaissance" Program recently formulated by the Society. It is my earnest hope that Renaissance will become a cornerstone for our Society's continued success.

Sigma Phi Society Renaissance

by Scott McCrae, V⁸², General Secretary scottmccrae@comcast.net

Recently, the Standing & Advisory Committee met and approved instituting the Sigma Phi Renaissance program to modernize our operations and help us to remain viable and relevant as a modern college fraternity. This move recognizes that the world of higher education has changed in dramatic ways over the past ten years. These changes have made it necessary to reassess how we operate as an organization.

Through conducting peer comparisons, interviewing Greek Life professionals on our host campuses, and examining the changing needs of our Society's stakeholders we have developed an approach that will serve us well as we move forward as leaders in the fraternal world.

Changes now taking place on college campuses are placing new demands on all national organizations. Host institutions are requiring more local educational programming and involvement from national Greek organizations. Liability insurance carriers continue to push for greater and more comprehensive risk management programming. Alumni corporations look to the actives to recruit new members for occupancy levels which sustain reasonable budgets. Undergraduate parents want lodging for their sons – the fraternity house included – which is safe and responsibly operated. The “meaningful experience” that today's students seek within Greek Life has gotten a lot more complex! In order for Sigma Phi to remain relevant and competitive with our fraternal peers, we must retool our programming and initiatives to answer the demands of our stakeholders.

These changes set the stage for the development of the Sigma Phi “Renaissance” Program. Renaissance is a program which represents a collaborative effort utilizing S&A resources to further develop and coordinate key operational areas. The first involves working with individual housing corporations to recruit alumni volunteers to become advisors for the actives and to deliver guidance and programming in four vital

areas. The four core programming areas are as follows:

1. Leadership Development: Alumni advisors will work with our actives to develop a leadership retreat every semester. That retreat will incubate strategic plans for our undergraduates to go forth and become leaders on campus and in their communities. The S&A will provide ideas and resources for possible programming venues which can be collaboratively built and put into place based on

plement current strategies. The recruitment advisor will work closely with undergraduates to follow through with the entire recruitment/ new member education process to allow us to find the very best new members and make our new member process a meaningful experience for the new men.

4. Career Development: We will use the resources of the host institutions and our alumni career advisors (who again will be chosen by the individual chapters from their alumni) to set up sessions such as resume writing workshops or networking seminars. This will be complemented by the creation of an entirely new facet on the Society's web site: one which helps alumni and undergraduates post job openings and to share resumes.

The Sigma Phi Renaissance also involves establishing a National Housing board to

evaluate the needs and management of our chapter houses. This board will be composed of alumni members from all chapters with expertise in construction, finance and property management to advise local housing corporations in maintaining and hopefully – as appropriate – purchasing facilities for new chapters. Our housing stock has long had a reputation for being among the best houses on each campus. We want to maintain that reputation.

The Renaissance program will not be effective or possible without financial support from Sigma Phi alumni. To this end, we will be expanding our fund raising program, and appealing to all alumni for additional support to fund Renaissance.

No organization can survive for nearly 182 years without adapting ... and remaining relevant. Sigma Phi has a strong tradition of doing what is necessary to maintain vital chapters at our host institutions. As an organization, we are committed to such vitality. Renaissance will help us implement new ideas, programming, and operations, all of which will preserve the traditions and values that have sustained this Society since its Schenectady founding, 182 years ago.



individual needs and wants at each chapter. The retreat format will be developed by the national, and volunteer facilitators will receive training to implement the workshop.

2. Risk Management: The national will work with the individual housing corporations to recruit an alumni advisor to serve in an undergraduate Risk Management officer position, and to facilitate ongoing programming for the undergraduates. The S&A will provide a comprehensive risk management manual on the website along with resources from our national insurance carrier to facilitate these new alumni and undergraduate positions. This risk management component will make our chapters safer and promote better decision-making. It will ensure that Sigma Phi's risk management policy is uniformly understood and leveraged by our chapters.

3. Recruitment: The S&A will help find and choose a local recruitment advisor who will introduce dynamic recruitment techniques to aid in the quest for new Sig brothers. Dynamic recruitment – a concept developed by an organization called Phired Up Productions – is now used by many national fraternities. Core recruitment ideas can be used all or in part by individual Sig chapters to com-

View from a Young Alumnus: The Second Moment of Understanding

by Andy Mansfield, M'06 amansfld@umich.edu

Having graduated from Michigan more than a year ago, I often find myself reflecting on the Sigma Phi. Lately my thoughts have moved beyond the numerous fond memories of my undergrad time towards considering what Sigma Phi is to me as a recent alumnus.

Many of my best friends have been gone from 907 Lincoln for a year or more and I see changes in them. For some reason, however, I didn't expect to see the same in myself. It's a distinct transition. The rose colored glasses come off and the reality of life and people at Sigma Phi is clearer. As an alumnus, you come to recognize ups and downs, hard work, laziness, kept and broken promises, and everything in between. Surprise and wonder surrounding the house seem to diminish as you begin to focus on your own life once more. The active chapter seems to be changing before your eyes and conversations ending with "it isn't what it used to be" become more frequent. So I wonder what happens next. Where does such real world thinking lead? Is the alumni experience merely a slow regression into nostalgia and lost friendships?

I spent the last three years learning how to be a good active Brother and all of a sudden I am supposed to be an "alumnus," joining the esteemed – and

sometimes not so esteemed – ranks of graduated Sigs before me. In other words I went from being one of about thirty at the Michigan Alpha, to one of thousands in Sigma Phi at large. From this point of view, the feeling of being in an exclusive, difference-making group is distinctly less brilliant. Adding to this perceptual shock is the lack of preparedness for this crossroads. There is a well-developed process, after all, which brings us into the Sigma Phi. After graduation, however, it seems that we recent actives/new grads are very much on our own ... left to pursue our own goals, equipped with some skills and knowledge, and accompanied by a few best friends from Sigma Phi.

So I find myself asking ... now what? What will the Sigma Phi be in my life from this point forward?

Unfortunately (or fortunately) in my reflection I have not found "the answer" or even my answer to this question. In a subtle way, though, maybe this lack of certainty leads me down the right path, quite by accident. Let me explain ...

Upon entering the halls of Sigma Phi, a would be Brother begins a journey into the self. Through the Society's introductory methods, prospectives develop a clearer understanding of who they are ... perhaps for the first time. We develop relationships with each other

and with ourselves, bolstering our strengths and building on our weaknesses. We culminate this growth as we come together in our most glorious moment at initiation, to pass the torch along to the next Sig generation that its members may find themselves as well. And finally, we move on from our respective chapter houses. Alleged "adults," we strike out into the world.

And perhaps via this striking out, we face another important moment of understanding: understanding who we are because of the Sigma Phi, what we need from her, and what she needs from us for the future. Just as new men join our halls for different reasons, perhaps the next step in our development as Sigs is to understand why we need Sigma Phi after we graduate, after we initiate, after we have enjoyed years of Brotherhood. Rather than give up what was started during initiation, we must push on to truly know our Brothers and ourselves.

My future in Sigma Phi? I may have arrived at my answer! Simply asking the questions of yourself will put you on a path to understanding. As alumni, I say we should not be afraid to conclude that the "house isn't what it used to be" ... as long as we continue to invest through our personal participation in what it will become.



Roster of the Standing & Advisory Committee

Union: David Messler, U'93 dmessler@charter.net
Hamilton: Brendan McCurdy, H'80 ofelixculpa@aol.com
Williams: David Williams, W'61 bylot@vtusa.net
Hobart: Mark Geary, G'79 maggarmd@frontiernet.net
Vermont: Kurt Haigis, V'73 khaigis@together.net
Michigan: Bob Mersereau, M'74 mersereb@yahoo.com

Lehigh: Bill Brennan, L'78 bill.brennan@verizon.net
Cornell: Glenn George, C'82 ggeorge001@yahoo.com
Wisconsin: Dan Neumann, F'71 dca120@sbcglobal.net
California: ... TBD
Virginia: Jim Cole, S'87 jvcii@cox.net
North Carolina: Steve Wright, S'93 stevetheplow@yahoo.com

May: Simply The Best

by Tom Bleezarde, H'54 tomjude@roadrunner.com

Mays are simply the best. There's no doubt about it. Of all of the months spent on college campuses everywhere, Mays are number one.

It is possible, however, that this was especially true for those of us who spent undergraduate winters "weathering" the harsh climates of upstate New York. On the campus of Hamilton College, residents of the Beta of New York certainly knew that Mays were number one.

Septembers weren't all that bad, of course. We caught up with our brothers after the summer hiatus, breathed in the pungent odor of leaves burning in backyards and immersed ourselves in the Sig pledging process.

Octobers and Novembers were notable for crisp, cool air sweeping down the Oriskany Flats, and the pageantry of football weekends. Then came the winters at Hamilton: snow, hockey, snow, Winter Carnival, and more snow. There were breaks. A highlight at the Beta occurred each Christmas season, when the brothers hosted a Christmas party for faculty children. That festive event led up to the holidays, mid-year exams, and the Swing which would soon follow.

All that snow and the related activities would wear thin, however. When May came up on the calendar...ahh! ... then the good times rolled at the Hamilton home of Sigma Phi. Severe cases of cabin fever, for example, were miraculously cured. The uniform of the day changed from cords to khakis, and charcoal gray flannel gave way to blue or gray seersucker for more formal occasions. (BDC's and white bucks were of course impervious to the changing seasons.)

After wardrobe adjustment, the next sign of a new season came with the clink of ice cubes and the splash of the gin and tonic at cocktail hours on the side porch before Wednesday "guest nights," when the chapter hosted favorite professors. On other days, the brothers would gather to wait for lunch or dinner and watch the rebirth of the hill's Arboretum on the front drive from our rustic-style porch chairs.

May on the college golf course was a new experience. Leaves that had hidden errant drives the previous fall had by that time blown into adjacent upstate New York counties, so tiny round Titleists and

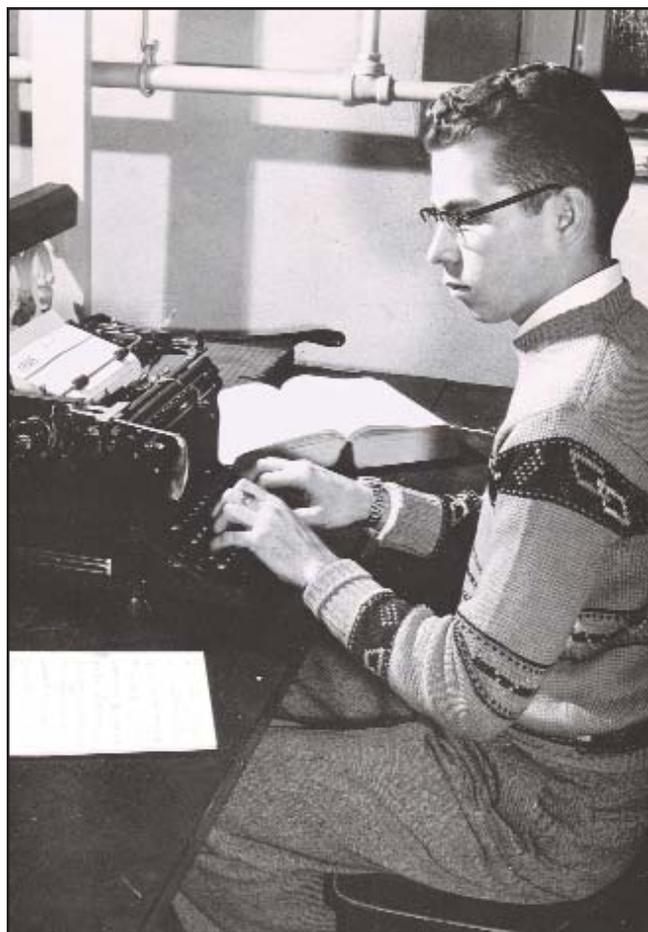
Top Flites were left exposed on the fairways. Golfers in that promising season, happily thinking about their next shots, could even manage to ignore the pungent smells emanating from nearby cow pastures!

Classrooms in May had a different feel. Air grown stale over the winter was displaced by a new supply, blown in through open windows. Lectures took on increased importance as semesters wound down and finals loomed. Class notes were copious and accompanied us on those junkets to the ends of the runways at Griffiths AFB in nearby Rome to watch the new F89J Scorpions take off. How did we earnest students justify that trip? We were simply seeking "study space," of course!

The sports scene moved outdoors from hockey rinks and basketball courts to lacrosse and baseball fields. Spring House Party weekends gave the month a focal point and presented the brothers with opportunities to arrange for female companionship during the looming Senior Week and Commencement Weekend.

Despite the pressure seniors felt as their last finals approached, there seemed to be plenty of time for road trips. In May, the destinations of choice switched from Skidmore and Wells to the more southern campuses of Vassar and Bennett Junior. In those climes, afternoon sunshine was decidedly kinder on lawn parties and outside jazz concerts.

That same warm sun eventually worked its magic on the Hill. As the last traces of snow disappeared, we began to use the rear hatchway access to the Buttrick Hall offices of the Student Press Bureau where I pounded out news releases for hometown papers. At Sigma Phi Place, it was time for spring cleaning: removing detritus from the basement



Tom Bleezarde, H'54, as a Hamilton junior pounding out a home town release for the Student Press Bureau in Buttrick Hall

entrance behind the kitchen wing, washing windows throughout the house, and – now that doors and windows could be left open – oiling the wood paneling on the first floor and expelling stale air from the basement television room and bar.

The Rites of Spring were (and undoubtedly still are) incomplete at The Beta without a Root Glen pilgrimage. The Glen is a nature trail alongside the campus that is a treat any time of the year. In May, however, it can and does attract even the most apathetic college senior. College lore has it that many an engagement ring has "changed hands" during a co-ed stroll through The Glen!

Ahhhhh, yes! May was the best. There is simply no doubt: no calendar competition, whatsoever! Despite changes in campus "traditions" in the last 50 or so years and the dimming of individual memories, no other time of year can compare in the mind of any Hamilton Sig. I would wager that Sigs from other campuses have a similarly fond regard for the unique magic of the month of May.

A Sig Pilot Looks at Flight 1549

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

David Hornblower, H'83, is a pilot for Jet Blue and has flown commercially for the past 10 years. Knowing that he would have solid insights about the remarkable flying that took place on January 15, when pilot Howard Sullenberger managed to set down US Air Flight #1549 in the Hudson River without loss of life, I contacted David to ask for his views. They are presented below.

I was at home when I received four phone calls in quick succession from brothers, my fiance and a flight attendant friend. Each wondered what had happened to Flight #1549 ...

My first inclination as to cause was dual engine flameout, thus the ditching. Because I fly around New York City, and there are no open pastures, it made sense that they would have put down in the river. There are just no other viable options; with no power, aircraft come down; and fast!

I have had a little dual engine flame-out training in simulation. We drilled the engine relight procedure and the drill

goes something like this ...

Starting from an altitude of around 35,000, you lose both engines. In order to relight a jet turbine, an incredible amount of air has to pass through the engine. The drill involves you forcing the aircraft into a dive to achieve approximately 290 knots indicated airspeed; thus creating sufficient N2 pressure to introduce fuel and restart the bad boy ... Once one is lit, you restore power to the a/c using the engine's generator. A relight of the second engine may be attempted so long as no damage is suspected ...

Here's the kicker. A dive of approximately 5,000 feet (!) is needed to derive the requisite airspeed (and core N2 pressure) to relight. So you can imagine that these US Air pilots recognized the urgent need to act quickly ... instinctively ... otherwise they were goners.

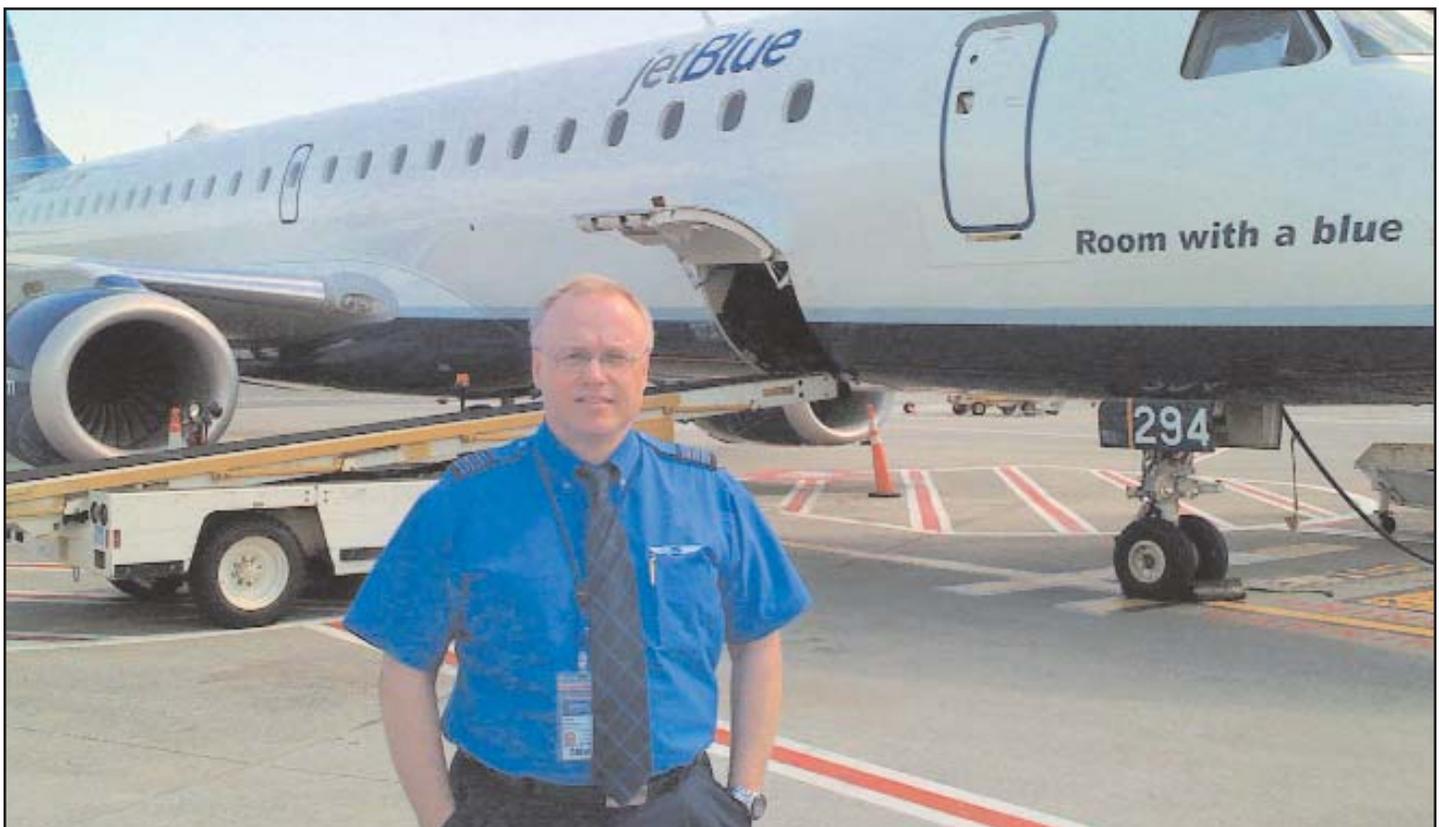
Bird strikes are more common than the public knows. I've struck the suckers before; once a really cute snowy owl decided to visit the heavenly gods in Dallas when on a dark winter's night, he

saw my landing lights and proceeded to fly directly into us! Another time I struck a bird on my approach to Atlanta, right on the nose cone. In both cases, airplane 1 – bird zero!

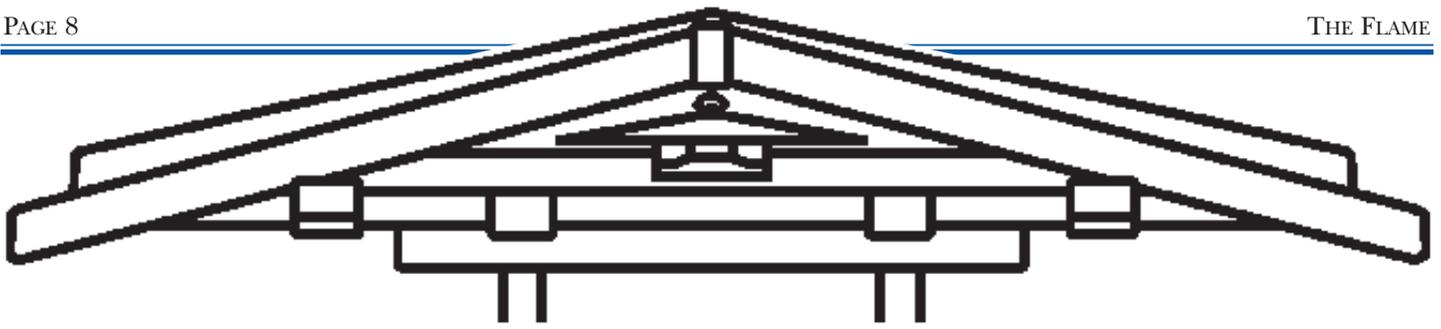
But in the comparatively rare U.S. Air instance, these guys flew through a flock of Canadian Geese – very large birds – and ingested them directly into the ole engines, rendering an immediate flame-out. Remember the basic laws of turbojet physics – Suck, Squeeze, Bang, Blow. Disrupt the air and you can “forget about it.” Had just one engine flamed out, that Airbus could have kept aloft.

I am certain we pilots will see additional training focus on dual engine flameouts and recovery techniques. Not just here at jetBlue but at all airlines, since carriers wisely incorporate into crew training those events which are seen in the real world of flying.

You can reach David Hornblower at this e-mail address:
dhornblower@yahoo.com



Jet Blue Captain David Hornblower, H'83



SIGMA PHI SOCIETY

178TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

BERKELEY · CALIFORNIA · 2009

Surf's Up, Dude!

by Josh Taxson, I'95 joshtaxson@gmail.com

Dust off the surfboards, because convention is in California this year! The Alpha of California is proud to host Sigma Phi's 178th National Convention, September 25th and 26th, 2009. The California Sig House is in tiptop shape after the past two years of renovations and improvements, the grass is green, the lights burn bright and the Actives are jovial. If you have never been to the house, it is a must-see, a rare architectural gem from 1909, designed by famous Arts & Crafts architects Greene and Greene. We are hoping to see the house packed full to the rooftop with Sigs from every decade and every chapter.

In true Sig style, we are making things easy by choosing hotels, workshop and banquet locations within a ten-minute walk of the Sigma Phi House to minimize the need for driving and/or public transportation. We encourage all wandering birds to bring their entire flock – children, wives, in-laws and family dogs, too. Berkeley offers something of interest for everyone. Wander the scenic UC Berkeley campus, take in the rich local architectural heritage, visit Tilden Regional Park (extensive nature trails, and golf), or venture down to the Berkeley Marina for some of the best views of the entire San Francisco Bay. Sailing, anyone?

There are multitudes of activities throughout the Bay Area, all within an hour's drive or less. Convention in California is a great opportunity to make plans to enjoy the best of the Golden State for the weekend or longer so plan on making the most of your time, wherever your interests lie.

- San Francisco – Chinatown/North Beach/The Mission/Haight Street/ Fisherman's Wharf/The Marina/Golden Gate Park/Nob Hill – museums, shopping, cable cars, and so much more

- Marin County – Stinson Beach, Mt. Tam, Muir Woods, Sausalito

- Sonoma/Napa/Healdsburg – WINE COUNTRY!

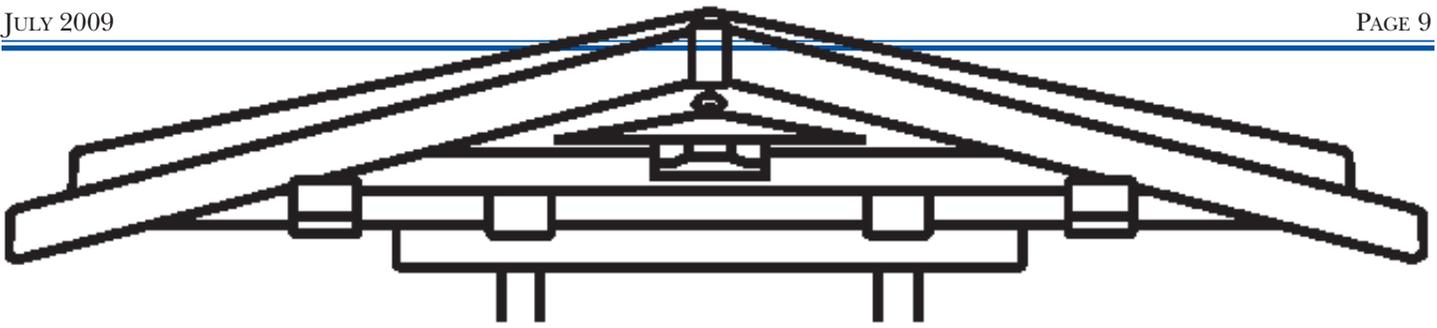


- Big Sur/Santa Cruz/Carmel/Monterey – the dramatic California coast
- The East BAY! Oakland/Berkeley/Alameda – home-turf of the Alpha of California of course...

More detailed information and online registration is available on the Sigma Phi National Convention 2009 event page at <http://sigconvention09.eventbrite.com>. Updates and additional details about the festivities will be posted there throughout the coming months, so check back often for all the breaking news – or keep your finger on the pulse of what's shaping up with Convention 2009 by subscribing to the live RSS feed on the event page.

As always, everyone is encouraged to make airline and hotel reservations now. Take advantage of the low rates and hotel blocks (see page 9; reservations must be finalized by Sun. Aug. 23). If you have any general questions, please feel free to contact Josh Taxson at joshtaxson@gmail.com or call me (510) 502-0029. I am looking forward to shaking your hand in September.

Best Sig Love,
Josh Taxson, I'95,
 Alumni Board President



Convention '09 Particulars:

Hotels

Officers, S&A Delegates, Alumni Chapter Presidents, and Graduate Wandering Birds:

We have blocked out rooms at the UC Berkeley Faculty Club and Women's Faculty Club, and the discounted rates are all between \$125 – \$150/night (for multiple occupancy, making these affordable and convenient). The Faculty Club is a secluded 1902 Arts and Crafts gem by renowned Berkeley architect Bernard Maybeck located on a wooded creek-side glen on the UC Campus just moments from the Sig house on foot. Additional rooms are reserved at the adjacent Women's Faculty in case of overflow – to best accommodate everyone attending please arrange to have a room-mate and make your reservation accordingly. Contact the clubs directly for availability and specific information as amenities vary from room to room. Our block reservation is under Sigma Phi Convention and is hosted at the club by Richard Hsu.

UC Berkeley Faculty Club

510-540-5678

<http://www.berkeleyfacultyclub.com/hotel>

Women's Faculty Club

510-642-4175

<http://www.womensfacultyclub.com/>

Reservations must be finalized by Sun. Aug. 23
Encountering any troubles reserving space from afar? Contact David Elias, I'92, at delias@thorsenhouse.org.

Active Delegates and Undergraduate Wandering Birds:

Right down the street, off-campus – the Beau Sky Hotel has room for you all. \$125 – \$135/night; double-up brothers... Our block reservation is under "Sigma Phi Convention."

Beau Sky Hotel

510-540-7688 or 800-990-2328 <http://www.beausky.com/>

Reservations must be finalized by Sunday 23 August.
Need more info about rooms for actives? Contact Active Convention Chair Nick Noyer I'08 (ncn88@berkeley.edu, or 818-518-6458)

For those attending with the whole family, planning on an extended stay in the Bay Area, or just looking for alternatives – Other nearby options include the Hotel Durant, the Bancroft Hotel (both only blocks from Sigma Phi), or the Claremont Hotel (not walking distance).

Registration

We highly recommend completing your registration/payment online for convenience and ease of receiving updates as convention weekend approaches. Further information and secure online credit card or PayPal processing is available on the event page. Register online before 15 August 2009 and receive a discount in thanks for your quick response.

<http://sigconvention09.eventbrite.com>

Registration deadline is Thursday 10 September.

Questions about the event page and/or online registration? Contact Alumni Convention Chairman David Elias I'92 (delias@thorsenhouse.org)

Need to register offline?

Contact Active Convention Chair Nick Noyer I'08 (ncn88@berkeley.edu, or 818-518-6458)

Convention Schedule of Events

Thursday 24 September

- PM • Welcome and Registration
- Evening Meet and Greet at Sigma Phi Place

Friday 25 September

- AM • Welcome and Registration at Sigma Phi Place
 - S&A Committee Meeting
 - Undergraduate Leadership Conference
 - Lunch
- PM • Sigma Phi Educational Foundation Board Meeting
 - Undergraduate Leadership Conference
 - Reception
 - Hick's Oratorical Contest
 - Conclave

Saturday 26 September

- AM • Registration and Continental Breakfast
 - General Convention Business Session
 - Thorsen House Centennial Event
- PM • Cocktail Reception at Sigma Phi Place
 - Convention Banquet at International House
 - Post Banquet Revelry

Sunday 27 September

- AM – Farewell Breakfast at Sigma Phi Place

Stay Connected!

by George Ketterer, F'65, Society Treasurer glketter@wisc.edu

We've just passed a two-part annual rite here in Wisconsin. The first part finds us officially concluding that it's spring here in the north country; winter must be over! The second is knowing that it's that exciting time of year for college seniors to don their gowns and mortar boards, get their hard-earned diplomas and amble on to the next phases of their lives. There are many Sigs among those new graduates, of course. Graduating usually means leaving the protective environment of their Chapter House, be it in Madison, Ann Arbor, Burlington or wherever.

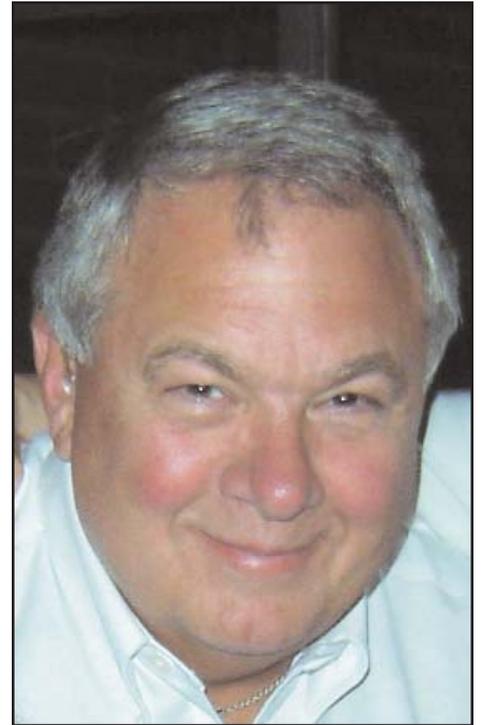
We older alums who have already passed that milestone know how swiftly our college days flew by. In a mere heartbeat, it seemed, we were thrust into the "real world." Sadly, for far too many, that also marks an end to our connection with Sigma Phi. As time and distance begin to separate us from college days, there's often a tendency to leave our involvement with Sigma Phi behind. We get busy with our careers, marriage, children, and moves which take us from place to place. Despite those legitimate real world events, I'd like to share with you some thoughts on how the separation of time and space doesn't have to force a disconnect with Sigma Phi.

About 3 years beyond my undergraduate days at the University of Wisconsin, I had worked out of state for more than a year. I was back in Madison taking graduate courses and working in the UW's finance office. One day, I received a phone call from Rollie Smith, F'51, inviting me to have lunch with him and Tom Zilavy, F'56. I had a suspicion they wanted to talk me into something regarding the Alumni Corporation. During lunch, they came right to the point and asked if I would be willing to serve as the Alumni Treasurer. At this point in my life, I could think of plenty of excuses for politely turning down that offer. After all, I was now married, my wife and I were expecting our first child, I was working full-time and taking a graduate course in data processing. But Rollie and Tom were very persuasive, and I was frankly honored that they were asking me to take on a pretty important role with the Alpha of Wisconsin. They didn't even ply me with alcohol at that lunch-

eon, but I got the message ... and said 'yes'!

The biggest challenge in my new role occurred in 1972 when the chapter house experienced a devastating fire. The entire 2nd floor was destroyed, and the remainder of the Sigma Phi Place sustained some significant smoke and water damage. That tragedy showed me a new side of Sigma Phi, for alumni from far and wide offered their help, moral support and encouragement to our local alumni corporation. There was no question that we were going to rebuild ... just a matter of how to pay for the reconstruction. The insurance settlement was far too small to even begin a total restoration of our Louis Sullivan designed national landmark, and we weren't sure how much we could raise from loyal Sigs. That's when Art Nielsen, Sr, F'16, came to our rescue. That Brother went above and beyond...and then some! In addition to advancing funding to the alumni corporation, he also drove up to Madison from Chicago regularly to help with the all the decisions necessary to create a first-class, authentic restoration of The Bradley-Sigma Phi House. Working with Art on that restoration – and seeing so many other Sigs put forth so much time and effort to get the Alpha of Wisconsin back on track – was a real turning point in my attitude about staying connected.

Since that time, I've always tried to maintain some active role with Sigma Phi, and this has been the key element in ensuring that I never drift away. There is always a pull to remain connected, a reason to maintain contact, and a responsibility to all the other Sigs who take on roles similar to mine. With most volunteer organizations, the hard part is usually getting people to recognize the benefits of involvement and saying 'yes.' It's human nature, after all, to bring to mind all the 'costs' of getting involved. But I'd be willing to bet money that most people who do take the plunge don't look back with regret. It's no different within our Society. There have been many Sigs who have worked hard over the years to see that Sigma Phi remains viable at the University of Wisconsin. Those individuals readily admit how rewarding it is to stay connected, work



George Ketterer, F'65

with other Sigs (often from very diverse generations), and take pride in keeping the chapter healthy.

When I was asked to consider serving as the National Treasurer of Sigma Phi Society, I thought of all the experiences I'd had working with the Alpha of Wisconsin. I felt a mix of emotions; I was flattered that I was being considered to fill an important role, I was a little afraid of the complexities that faced me, and I knew I would have to let go of some of my responsibilities with the Wisconsin Chapter. But looking ahead to a new Sig adventure, I once again said 'yes.' The learning curve is a little steeper than I had expected, and shortly after assuming office, the bottom fell out of the stock market. The Society's endowment value fell by almost half, presenting some new and very real financial challenges.

I think the greatest satisfaction I've had so far is knowing that there are many Sigs concerned for our future and are trusting me to maintain some level of stewardship over our numbers. Exercising that stewardship and providing my Brothers with useful information on our financial well-being is just another *(Continued on page 11)*

Berkeley Lair Celebrates Centennial

by Ted Bosley, I'73 bosley@usc.edu

Nearly one hundred years ago, in November of 1909, the soft-spoken architect Charles Greene visited a busy construction site at 2307 Piedmont Avenue in Berkeley, California. The exquisitely crafted residence that Charles and his brother, Henry, had designed for William R. Thorsen and his family would become renowned as one of the great achievements of American 20th-century architecture. For thirty-three years, the Thorsen family occupied the 9,000 square-foot residence made of wood: exquisitely crafted redwood shakes and sculpted fir beams outside, expansive mahogany and teak paneling inside, and plenty of delicate stained-glass and carefully joined custom furnishings throughout. How could anyone have guessed that this landmark, this "Ultimate Bungalow" now celebrating its centennial, would become the cherished home of Sigs at Berkeley?

Sigs are familiar with the incredulous stares, and exclamations like "I can't believe a fraternity owns that beautiful house!" And that was pretty much how I felt when I pledged in the fall of 1972. What good luck, I thought, to be able to live in such a beautiful place. I suspected, though, that it was not only the architecture that was having an amazing effect on the psyche of an impressionable freshman. I wondered, too, if Sigma Phi might be having an amazing effect on the psyche of this impressionable freshman! It all unfolded as a mysterious interrelated spell – a simultaneous happening – and to this day I have a hard time figuring out which amazing effects were caused by what. Now, of course, I realize it doesn't matter; the Spirit of

Sigma Phi was at the heart of it all along.

In those early days when I was coming to grips with the embrace of Sigma Phi, I didn't feel particularly alone being possessed by the architecture. All of the brothers, it seemed, were nearly as serious about protecting the house and its beautiful details as they were about teaching Friendship, Love and Truth. Some alumni thought we had gone clear off the deep end when in 1978 a few of us submitted an application to the federal government to include the house on the National Register of Historic Places. We believed (presciently, as it turned out) that the house spoke to us in ways that were probably meaningful to the outside world, too. It was a liberating revelation, though, when I came to appreciate that living at 2307 Piedmont was about much more than just the architecture. It was about a brotherhood of 20 men with shared experiences. It was about the privilege of living college life with 20 men who understood the stage of life I was in because they were in it, too (no offense, Mom). It was about the privilege of shouldering a real responsibility, which we had to each other, to help us get through life, classes, and romances gone awry. And, yes, it was about some epic parties, too.

The Sigma Phi family has now occupied 2307 Piedmont Avenue more than twice as long as the Thorsen family did. I take pride in telling whoever will listen that the Greenes' architecture, in the hands of Sigma Phi, has survived more original and intact than nearly every other privately-owned Greene & Greene house (only The Gamble House in Pasadena is a public site). This is because brothers in Sigma Phi learn stewardship,



Ted Bosley, I'73

not only of things, but of each other. We take care of those we love when we take care of ourselves and our environments, whether built or natural. The brothers of Sigma Phi understand this better than most.

Here's to the next century of our home in Berkeley. *Esto Perpetua!* 

(Note: Ted Bosley is Director of The Gamble House, a Greene & Greene-designed National Historic Landmark in Pasadena, Calif.)

(From Page 10) strong Sig tie. It helps keep me connected.

So here's my closing encouragement. (I hope it's the membership advice you're looking for!) If you're afraid that you're losing contact with Sigma Phi, search out a way, no matter how small, to give a little back. Sure, we need your financial help; that will always be the case. But Sigma Phi is far more than just paying dues and making dona-

tions. Check in with your chapter's local alumni corporation and volunteer your time, energy or expertise. There are always officer or board member positions which go begging. Several times each year in Madison, alums are asked to come to the House to do major clean-up work, both inside and out. It's a great way to spend a spring or fall Saturday working with other Sigs, having lunch and enjoying a salutary beverage or two!

At the national level, there are several organizations which will always rely for service on loyal Sigs: the Standing & Advisory Committee, the Viele Scholarship Selection Committee, and the Sigma Phi Educational Foundation, to name but a few.

If you become involved with this Society as an alumnus, you'll stay connected ... and be glad you did. I guarantee it! 

Epsilon Commissions Unique Legacy

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

The alumni corporations which lead our chapters address or encourage dozens of recurring leadership needs each year. Occasionally, in the contexts of fund drives, anniversary recognitions or bricks & mortar expansion, they need to orchestrate non-routine successes, too.

One such success – a unique, even ‘heirloom’ one in this Society – was recently engineered by the Epsilon Association, the Cornell chapter’s board of directors. Two years ago, the Epsilon Association commissioned a firm called Bespoke History to write a formal history of the Cornell chapter, focusing on the 75 year anniversary of the current Sigma Phi Place at One Forest Park Lane.

Frank Betley, C’73, Fred Bloom, C’57, Brad Wheler, C’73, Dan Mansoor, C’76, and Glenn George, C’82, served as the project team. They commissioned Bespoke, owned by 1990 Cornell grad Tom Hostage (and son of Mike Hostage, C’51) to research and write a hardbound, ‘coffee table’ type book: one rich in both imagery and text. To that end, the Epsilon made its considerable historical archives available and arranged for Bespoke access to University resources, too.

The 165-page, 4-color result is stunning. Completed and printed this past April, ‘A Place on the Hill’ is a fraternal masterpiece. The author researched exhaustively, yet rendered a history which was both readable and engaging. Along the way, Hostage displayed a remarkable sensitivity towards Sigma Phi, using a voice which sounded for all the world like that of a caring, knowledgeable Sig to share this venerable slice of Sig history in Ithaca across twelve decades.

And when this ground-breaking history project was completed, the Epsilon Association engineered another success!



Tom Hostage, C’09, with proud dad Mike Hostage, C’51

In late May, Tom Hostage was made a Sig, joining the ranks of the select few Society-wide who have become members as adults based on service they have rendered to Sigma Phi. (This Brother remembers with great respect the 1987 initiation in Geneva of Minor Myers, Jr, Provost of Hobart College and a great friend of Sigma Phi.)

[Additional information about Bespoke History, LLC, can be found at this website: www.bespokehistory.com]

Tar Heel Update

by Sean List, T’08 slist@sunstoneapts.com

With the summer’s arrival in the Tar Heel State, so grows the excitement for the newest pledges of the Alpha of North Carolina. At this moment, there are two new brothers-to-be of the T. We are pleased to announce the successful acquisition of two outstanding gentlemen to the newest chapter of the Sigma Phi. The pledge period of Matthew Butler of Warne, North Carolina and David D’Angelo of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania is now drawing to a close. While the process of rush proved to be just as daunting and difficult as expected, this chapter is pleased with the results of our first rush.

One of the most difficult hurdles we faced during rush was our fledgling status at the University. Forming an effec-

tive rush proved to be quite complicated for several reasons, including: the lack of a house, difficulties in publicizing, and prospective rushees’ skepticism about joining an organization with only four members. We did our best to overcome these obstacles, and the youngest chapter of the Sigma Phi is growing, slowly but steadily.

The active Brothers of the T are currently planning on exactly how we execute the next step of these pledges’ lives in the Society. This milestone initiation will mark the completion of our first independent Rush-Pledge-Swing cycle. Due to geographical and financial restrictions, we have decided to have an initiation similar to this brother’s own – most likely to be hosted by the familiar,

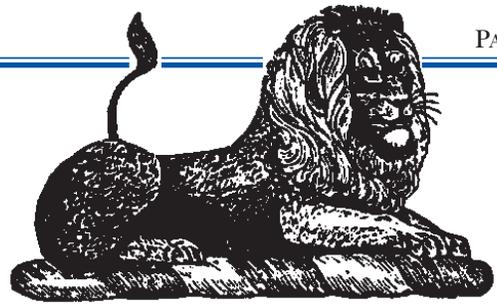
always-welcoming Serp house in Charlottesville.

Gazing into the future of the Sigma Phi at Chapel Hill, this brother has expectations of a thriving chapter – one in which the bonds of Friendship, Love, and Truth are both nurtured and exemplified. It’s an inescapable fact that these early years will be difficult. However, nothing great has ever been attained easily, (That’s a mantra on which I have focused often during my tenure as President of the Alpha!)

There are many great things in store for the Southernmost Chapter; and we eagerly await the arrival of fall 2009 rush. The spirit of the Sigma Phi is ever-present here in North Carolina, and – with time – it will only continue to grow.

The Flame Will Burn Brightly in Geneva

by Timothy Starr G'05 timothy.g.starr@gmail.com



The history of the Delta is one of constant rebirth. I am happy to report that, due to the efforts of a group of highly motivated and dedicated alumni, the Delta of New York is very close to beginning a new chapter in its illustrious and grand history. Just this spring, the undergraduate chapter celebrated its final meeting of the year in an off campus house. Attending the meeting were 31 dedicated active members, all of whom care deeply about the future of the Delta and our grand dame, the Sigma Phi Place at 624 South Main street.

Unfortunately, the latter half of 2008 was not kind to the Delta. It seems that trouble with the Hobart College administration has been a constant struggle for this chapter over the past decade. Anti-fraternity sentiment has gained momentum on campus, which has resulted in the harassment of all of fraternities. As a result of several infractions involving fire violations, the actives of the Delta were forced to vacate the house for the remainder of the 2008-09 school year. The individuals responsible for handing down this decision are known as the Council on Fraternal Life. This is a group of professors and students which monitors Hobart's fraternity system and

hands down disciplinary decisions if college rules are broken. After the decision was made to remove our actives from the house, several other incidents occurred with other fraternities on campus. These incidents were of a much more serious nature, and yet the fraternities in question were given lighter sentences. This caused our alumni to seriously question the administration of Hobart College and the ability of this council to fairly judge fraternities. After several months of lobbying, the decision was made by Hobart College to disband the COFL, and create a new disciplinary board based on alumni involvement.

The suspension of our undergraduate chapter has been reviewed by the Deans, and the alumni board of the Delta is in negotiations with the college to return our actives to 624 South Main Street in the spring of 2010 at the latest. This is excellent news, as the 20 active brothers who will be returning this fall are eager to reopen the hallowed halls of 624 one day, and return the Place to her former glory.

As for the future of the Delta, a momentous 'ownership' occasion will be upon us very soon. As of May 31, 2010, Hobart College will be forced to vacate 624 South Main street and return com-

plete control of the property to the Delta Alumni corporation. This date will mark the first time since May of 1984 that our illustrious house and all its contents will no longer be under the jurisdiction of the College. This has been made possible by the generosity of several alumni, who have agreed to pay off the final mortgage on the house, which will allow the property to be returned to us free of financial obligation. As outlined in the alumni meeting in New York City on April 4th 2009, the hope is that in the future, the Delta will remain as an off campus institution housed at 624 South Main Street. For our chapter, this will mark the return of self governance, and an end to the constantly changing whims of the college administration.

It seems that the line "to the Delta we sing like the Phoenix of old...The flame that she kindles shall never grow cold" shall forever be the true nature of our beloved Hobart chapter. The stage is set to once and for all create a stable and sustainable future on which we can base the Delta of the 21st century. With a dedicated group of alumni, and a passionate group of active brothers, we have the chance to make the changes necessary to allow the Delta to make that 'forever' journey....successfully. *Esto Perpetua.* 

Proposed By-Law Changes

The following changes (additions) to the Restated Constitution and By-Laws were reviewed and voted on by the Standing & Advisory Committee in its February 28th meeting to be recommended to the General Convention.

The General Convention will discuss and vote on these recommended amendments at the Annual Meeting of the Members to be held Saturday 26 September 2009 at 9:00 A.M. PDT at the University of California in Berkeley. The exact meeting location will be posted and available in Convention registration materials at the Cal Sig House, 2307 Piedmont Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94704 starting on the evening of Thursday 24 September 2009.

ARTICLE IX – Amendment

D. Clarifications

Clarifications and technical modifications made by the General Convention to proposed amendments of the Restated Constitution and By-Laws that do not change the essential nature of the amendment under consideration for which notice

has been given shall not require further separate notice to the membership.

Except for the change enumerated in this amendment, the General Convention hereby confirms and ratifies all prior modifications to this Restated Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE XIV – Notice

Wherever in this Restated Constitution and By-Laws there are requirements for written notice, such notice may be given by government postal service, national commercial carrier, or electronic means such as e-mail or fax transmission, to the individual's last known address, physical or electronic as appropriate, as listed in the Society's records. Members shall be solely responsible for notifying and keeping the Society advised of their current contact information including address(es) (physical and electronic).

Except for the change enumerated in this amendment, the General Convention hereby confirms and ratifies all prior modifications to this Restated Constitution and By-Laws.



Graham B. Anthony, S'83, was married in 2007 to Angela Beekman. The couple lives part time in Charlottesville, VA and part time in Charleston, IL, where Angela is a Professor at Eastern Illinois University. Graham is CFO of Biovista, a drug discovery firm that re-tasks existing drugs for new uses. Write to Graham at 1304 Audrey Lane, Charleston, IL 61920.

Talk about a milestone! **Jim Blais, M'75**, reports running in – and surviving – the grueling 2009 Boston Marathon on April 20. “It took me seven years and multiple marathons to finally qualify. Race day was emotionally overwhelming and especially the last few hundred yards approaching the finish line. At that finishing moment (at 3 hrs, 57 minutes), all of the challenges of this long journey became meaningful and I started wondering what I could set my sights upon next!” Congratulations may be sent to Jim at 18854 Greenwood Ct, Spring Lake, MI 49456. jblais@wescoinc.com

John Boardman, L'51, posts this update: “We are enjoying retirement in Sarasota, FL, and invite any Lehigh brothers from the '51-'55 era who are in the area to give us a call. 941-918-9589.” The Boardmans make their home at 9580 Forest Hills Circle, Sarasota, FL 34238

Life is good for **James Brown, L'54**. “Still spending summer months in upstate NY and on St Lawrence River. Five months in winters skiing at Snowbird, UT.” Contact Jim at 273 E Lake Road, De Ruyter, NY 13052.

We have this business news to report about **Anthony Bryant, C'49**. Tony's family company, Century Fence, founded by Hank Bryant, C'00, in 1917, is building its new five million dollar corporate center on 12 acres of land in Pewaukee, Wisconsin. This campus should accommodate Century's growth well into this new century. Tony lives at 108 N Barstow St, Waukesha, WI 53186.

Jack Edmondson, U'41, wrote in to laud a recently-deceased Sig peer. He advised of the death of William H. McWhinney,

U'41, on April 3rd, 2007. Jack pointing out that Will was an esteemed designer, consultant, and educator who co-founder and served as faculty-emeritus of the Fielding Graduate University (FGU) in Santa Barbara, Ca. McWhinney was a former faculty member at UCLA and wrote four books about organizational systems. Jack closed his tribute by referring to specific text from one of the many obituaries he had collected: McWhinney was a great teacher with a profound intellect, spirited energy and a deep heart. “I couldn't have said it better, myself,” opined Brother Edmondson. (**Jack Edmondson, U'41** ... krysjacke@rcn.com)

We have glad tidings from **Rich Glenn, Jr, I'49**: “As far as personals, please be advised this brother is delighted to share his great privilege in becoming engaged to Sally Berry, with wedding bells to ring forth sometime in early October!” rglenn3@gmail.com

Pete Grylls, M'50, advises: “Married the former Marilyn Freeouf in 2007. We live in sunny Tucson with three cats and two lively dogs, and spend summers in beautiful Colorado.” The Grylls make their home at 3100 S Quail Trl, Tuscon, AZ 85730.

We have this ‘Far East Correspondent’ report from **Mike Koltan, M'08**: “I took part in a University volunteer/ cultural exchange program in Vietnam for the month of May called Global Intercultural Experience for Undergraduates (GIEU). I figured since I was in Asia, I figured I'd do a little traveling afterwards, going to Cambodia, Thailand, and Hong Kong. It's a pretty amazing area of the world, but – as you might imagine – I was excited to get back to the States after 6 weeks on travel.” (mpkoltan@gmail.com)

The Society expects certain things of Sigs, among them integrity, focus & character. It may be that **Brendan Matthews, V'02**, delivered on those expectations in a distinctly ‘above and beyond’ way. Last summer, Brendan – now a recent University of Wisconsin Law School grad – was taking part in a Prosecution Project internship with the Police Department of Sheboygan, Wisconsin. On a routine squad car patrol, he and his assigned officer responded to a ‘swimmer in distress’ call. When the duo got to the scene, they sized up the difficulties faced by a nine year old whom the current had dragged past the swim area. Brendan promptly entered the water, swam out to the child and – after some time –

Never Forget These Brothers

Since the publication of the December 2008 edition of the *Flame*, we have learned of the deaths of the following Sig brothers:

Bent, Robert M., V'31	Iltis, Charles Oliver, F'41	9 June 08
Bernt, Christian, I'53	Kubinec, Michael W., L'70	28 July 08
Bickley, John S., F'36	Kurtz, Edmund, F'52	1 Jan 08
Bladen, Christopher, W'59	Lawson III, Arnold, G'69	3 Nov 08
Brigham Jr., George H., V'47	Maas, Gerald, H'50	16 Oct 08
Brunner, Raymond, U'45	McWhinney, William, U'48	3 Mar 07
Burnham, Arthur B., C'60	Meyer, John F., F'44	
Carpenter Jr., Ralph E, C'28	Moran, James B., L'64	21 Apr 09
Cary Jr., Richard, G'39	Munger, Robert, I'29	22 Feb 01
Church Sr., Philip S., G'40	Olinger, John K., F'41	8 July 08
Dinsmore, John B., S'63	Pearce, Charles, C'39	5 Sept 08
Efferth, Harrison P., C'48	Richards, William, F'40	13 Oct 08
Emerick, Alan, G'40	Rieder, Rudolph, M'34	3 Feb 09
English, Kenneth, V'51	Severin, Donald F., I'44	4 Dec 08
Hendee Jr., John, W'47	Snelling, Christopher, U'54	11 Nov 08
Hirashima, Darrell, I'72	Stewart, John L., I'41	27 May 09
	Torphy Jr., Michael, F'49	20 Nov 08



Brendan Matthews, V'02

returned her to shore. For his courage and initiative, Brendan was presented with the Citizen's Distinguished Service Award from the Police Department. For his law school diligence, Brendan was presented with a JD this past May. He now practices law with Gingras, Cates & Luebke, S.C., in Madison.
brendanp.matthews@gmail.com

Ted Ochs, L'83, reports: "Bonnie and I continue to reside in downtown Baltimore with our two sons, Trey (5 years) and Marco (2 _ years). The end of the year will mark my 4th year as CFO at Connections Academy." The Ochs make their home at 1440 William St, Baltimore, MD 21230.

This travel encouragement comes from "the other side of the pond" via **Jeff Pagliaroli C'89**: "My wife and I have moved to Tuscany (Italy) so come visit and stay with us! Livorno is very close to Pisa and a short train ride to Florence."
paps13@gmail.com

Mark Rothenberg, L'86, advises: "Brothers, mark your calendars for Lehigh/Lafayette Football Game on 21 November 2009, in Bethlehem. We will attempt another reunion of the wandering Lehigh Sigs. Details and sundries TBD. Volunteers for planning and spending the 'slush fund' welcome (assuming we still have a banking system by then). Check www.sigmaphi.com for postings to reach any and all interested.

Best Sig love to all, Rothy" (12 Wheeler Gate, Westport, CT, 06880)

We have this news from **Leif R Salvesen F'60**: "We had a wonderful visit from the Martys, Tom (F'60) and his Sigma Phi sweetheart wife, Joanne. They were driving from Marshfield, WI, to see their son and his family in California and stopped by to see us in Dallas. We had such a grand time at the National Convention in Madison in September, that we promised to get together soon ... and so we did!" Leif lives at 6725 Spanish Moss Drive, Plano, TX 75024.

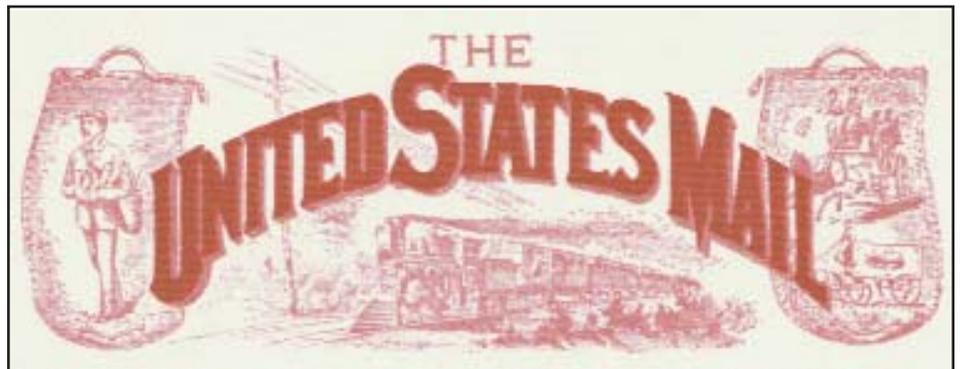
Greg Schvey, C'06, has certainly written a new page for the Society's book of community service. In only 13 months, beginning when he was a junior in the fall of 2007, Greg was able to creatively fundraise for the United Way of Tompkins County to the tune of \$30,000 +. Through a series of events and fundraisers, that Brother and kindred spirit **Jonathan Feldman, C'08**, began a grassroots effort to involve students. Their unique, high energy efforts broke new ground among student support for Cornell's preeminent philanthropy. A high point? When IFC President Schvey successfully organized all the Greek houses on campus to break the world's record for the most people to carry a baton in a continuous relay!
ges29@cornell.edu

We have this update from **Steve Sherlag, M'87**: "Life in Portland, Oregon is fantastic, with my busy law practice, wife of eleven years (Julie) and three daughters (Sophia, 8, Lena, 5, and Ana, 2). Julie and I planned to meet up with Brother Karl Alphonse Gigante, M'85, in Thailand this fall, but he moved to Buenos Aires just months before our arrival. (We're trying not to take it personally!) Still brewing beer – a habit I learned from Brother Craig Haney, M'85." steven@sherlaglaw.com

For **Jeff Smith, M'76**, life is busy ... and he wouldn't have it any other way! That ever-active (hyperkinetic?) Sig retired in the fall 2008 after 29 years at Accenture, where his last position was Global Managing Director for Retail Business. He joined Kohlberg Kravis & Roberts (KKR), a leading private equity and asset management firm in its KKR Capstone Operations Group as Director-Global IT. He's still in Chicago, even though the KKR office is in NYC, spending time at portfolio companies assisting them with IT issues and challenges. Jeff reports that his family (wife, Jayne, and 7 children) is doing very well, and that he's still racing triathlons. jeffrey.r.smith@kk.com

J Michael Traynor, I'52, now serves as Chair of the Council and President Emeritus of the American Law Institute (ALI), after serving eight years as its President, 2000-2008. At a formal tribute occasion, Mike was described by his successor as "an icon of what an American lawyer is supposed to be greatly intelligent, courageous, hardworking, and vastly kind and patient." Asked if all of that praise was factual and warranted, Brother Traynor laughed, shook his head, and advised: "The important thing is that one of ALI's founders was Elihu Root." Mike lives at 3131 Eton Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94705.

On May 31st – a beautiful Wisconsin spring day – **John Wenzler, F'79**, married the former Caron Coffae in a ceremony at none other than Lambeau Field, home of the NFL's Green Bay Packers. This marks a groundbreaking circumstance for John, a Field Business Leader at Rockwell Automation. Respectful Sig brothers in attendance, in fact, referred to it with amazement as "the day that hell froze over." The happy couple makes its home at this address: N73 W23332 Fontaine Circle, Sussex, WI 53089 and can be reached via e-mail at flyingwenz@yahoo.com



Sigma Phi FLAME

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2009 Dues Notice

In our 182nd year, some facets of our Sigma Phi Society remain constant.

Brotherhood. Sharing. Expanded horizons.

A profound and thankful awareness for the remarkable fraternal vision given birth by Brothers Bowie, Bowie, Cromwell and Witherspoon so long ago.

And the need for support ... **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.

If you haven't yet responded to the dues letter sent earlier by Society Chairman Marshall Solem, F'79, please invest a moment now. Mail your dues check (\$50 before 2004; \$30 for those initiated after), payable to Sigma Phi Society, to Sigma Phi, Post Office Box 4633, Chapel Hill, NC, 27515-4633.

Webmaster Needed for Sigma Phi Society

Are you web-savvy and interested in helping to grow Sigma Phi's presence on the web? The Society is in need of a new webmaster to help maintain and update the Society's website. The time commitment is only a few hours a week.

To learn more, contact Society Chairman Marshall Solem at msolem@zsassociates.com.

