

Sigma Phi

FLAME

NUMBER 117 • JULY 2011



High-flying Renaissance for the Alpha of North Carolina

The Chairman's Message: 'What a Spring!'

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

As I sit here enjoying the tulips and (finally) warmer weather, it strikes me that the day is a good metaphor for how I feel about the past several months at Sigma Phi. The rich green lawns, mulched beds and colorful tulips are symbolic of the growth at our UNC chapter. As you'll read elsewhere in this *Flame*, we recently initiated 17 new brothers into the Alpha of North Carolina. The hearty and variegated spring flowers are an apt symbol for those men: a veritable united nations of new Sigs, almost half of whom are academic all-stars on full ride scholarships to that rigorous institution. A fortuitous choice of venue – a subterranean Chapel Hill night club – protected us all from the tornados that tore through Raleigh during the initiation ceremony. When we came outside for the short journey to the banquet, the sky was clear and the sun was shining like the radiant Sig flame that had just been ignited in these new brothers. Participating side by side in the pre-initiation activities with these young men and playing a major part in the initiation service itself was one of the highlights of my Sig life and a definite highlight of the months since last fall's Convention in Vermont.

I was also thrilled with the turnout for our flagship March 4th banquet in New York City. Beyond having a stellar speaker line-up, including the latest Elihu Root and David Brown Distinguished Sigma Phi Award win-

ners, we had a fantastic turnout – the largest I can recall during my history of involvement with the national for such an event. We seated 150 Sigs and guests! The energy flowing around the packed the banquet room of the 3 West Club, across the street from Rockefeller Center, was electrifying. It was clear that the stories being told about the impact Sigma Phi had on their lives, whether by the speakers or the attendees, actives or alumni, provided a strong common bond, even for brothers who met for the first time that evening. Not that I needed any proof personally, but like the warm sun beating down on my patio, it was reassuring to me that so many other Sigs continue to have strong positive experiences in Sigma Phi keeping them connected to the Society. It is those experiences, of course, that we seek to continue to foster at each of our chapters, for actives and alumni, alike.

Finally, you'll read about a great new campus-wide oratorical contest, undertaken and sponsored by the Vermont chapter. The governor of Vermont served as one of the judges and the winner received a \$500 scholarship. This type of event, like a bright star, serves as a beacon for other Sig chapters to follow. Such novel, inclusive programming can continue to set Sigma Phi apart from the rest of the Greek system

As I head into the final months of my tenure as the Society's Chairman



Marshall Solem, F'79

and reflect on the past six years, my thoughts vacillate like Chicago's weather. There have been days like Easter of 2010 when, rather than celebrate new life, we mourned the loss of an active brother in Virginia. And then there are the happier and more fulfilling days, like those mentioned above, that raise my spirits and Sig enthusiasm to new heights. But while we can't control the weather, we can control the destiny of Sigma Phi. I wish I could have gotten even more accomplished during my two terms in office, for there is still important work to do to ensure that this Society's future is safe and secure. While I'm leaving office, I don't plan to just throw this work in my successor's lap. I'll still be around and actively engaged to help out. As the First Charge tells each of us, **"the Society's future depends up us – it depends, my brother, upon you!"**

I hope you'll join me to help ensure Sigma Phi's sunniest days are still ahead. 

Sigma Phi

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

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



NORTH-AMERICAN
INTERFRATERNITY
CONFERENCE MEMBER

Sigma Phi Home Page:
www.sigmaphi.org



KUDOS & THANKS ...

... to the following Sigs for their articles, information or encouragement supporting this issue of the *Flame*: Tex Currie, F'72, John Machulski, L'84, Dan Neumann, F'71, Chris Nicholson, S'01, David Pauls, M'65, John Rawley, V'05, Jack Romaine, L'90, Tim Starr, G'05 & Ginger Williamson, VSS'95.

Issue after issue, we solicit real Sig perspectives from real Sigs. Each shared viewpoint increases the newsletter's scope at the same time it improves its readability. Please contact editor Mike Imirie, M'69 (mimirie@aol.com) to share your feedback, suggestions, photographs and Sig stories. Flex your 'stakeholder' muscles, gentlemen! Provide Best Sig Love via sharing your news and experiences.

From the Secretary: 'The Finer Points'

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

I remember many conversations with the late Cal Howard, S'54, about Sigma Phi. These far-flung discourses took place during his 30 year term as Chairman of the Society and during my halcyon days traveling to national conventions in my mid-twenties. Cal had a proclivity to effortlessly emphasize the finer points of our Society and I so enjoyed his doing so. Sometimes he'd engineer something small like having "Thrice Illustrious" playing over the campus public address system while brothers walked across campus to a Convention business meeting! Most often, he'd find a way to underscore something truly meaningful to Sig life: i.e., the memory of a departed Brother, the value of a successful capital campaign, or the fruits of perhaps establishing a new chapter.

I have written articles in past *Flame* issues about our Renaissance Program and how Renaissance programming yields elements that our departed Chairman would surely consider "finer points" of our Society.

At the University of Vermont in January, Sig alumni and undergraduates held a Renaissance leadership workshop to map out the coming semester and to put into play elements which could lend further relevance to the chapter. It was decided that the undergraduates and the alumni would work together to bring Sigma Phi's tradition of oratory to the larger UVM campus. Our vehicle for so doing was the inaugural Richard Hovey Davis, V'77, Memorial Oratorical Contest. It would be patterned after our Hicks Oratorical Contest open to undergrads at each convention. We planned, we executed and – in our inaugural year – we were pleased with the results.

I was catching up on my email last week when I opened a forwarded message from current Chairman Marshall Solem, F'79. Marshall's note contained a letter from Craigin Howard Salsgiver, Cal Howard's daughter. Craigin wrote to Marshall in response to an article she read in the Vermont Cynic (UVM's

school newspaper) about the Davis Memorial Oratorical Contest we'd hosted at UVM.

You'll find Craigin's letter below. I felt compelled to include it here because trying to distill it simply would never have done it justice. Suffice it to say, though, Craigin's ability to resonate to this Society's "finer points" is a lot like her Dad's. I greatly enjoyed her reflections about her father and I'm proud that her discernment reflects so well on the goals of Sigma Phi's Renaissance program.

*Craigin Howard Salsgiver
243 Nichols Hill Road
Dorset, Vermont 05251*

Dear Marshall,

I'm writing to tell you how thrilled I was to read of the Alpha Chapter's first annual Richard Hovey Davis Memorial Oratorical Contest in UVM's student newspaper.

For as long as I can remember, Fraternities and Sororities have struggled to prove their worth to somewhat hostile audiences. College administrations and faculty have not always been the best of friends. Generations of students have grown up with one movie after another which drew incomplete, unflattering portraits of fraternity life. Concerted efforts to publicize community service activities, and the emphasis placed on scholarship have helped the image of fraternities and sororities, but these positive attributes can appear to skeptics to be university-driven rather than fraternity-driven. More importantly, scholarship and community service are only part of the story, and not even the most important part.

The decision to extend Sigma Phi's beloved annual oratorical contest into a campus wide activity helped develop a fuller picture of "fraternity." Sharing this unique Sigma Phi tradition with an entire student body illuminated the most underrepresented but perhaps most critical aspect of fraternities – the aspect which develops our loyalty and keeps us tied for life – the living, breathing commitment of a fraternity to the positive



Scott McCrae, V'82

development of its individual members.

The contest clearly demonstrated the value Sigma Phi places on intellect. The choice of topic went even further. The topic- "What is the definition of personal success in today's world?" -made all contestant speeches expressions of the character traits and values they hold most dear. This topic said more about the fraternity than lists of GPAs and community service activities could ever say. Extending this Sigma Phi tradition to an entire campus was a brilliant idea, a positive for all fraternities and sororities... most especially, of course, for Sigma Phi!

I shared the Vermont Cynic article with my mother this morning. She wanted me to tell you that Cal would have been absolutely thrilled with Alpha's campus wide oratorical contest. It would have been deemed an absolute stroke of genius. He would have been so proud of those with the idea, and of all those who participated in its execution. The fact that a young woman took third place indicated that this was not just a "Sigma Phi" event, but a well publicized campus wide event. The fact that ex-Governor Jim Douglas was a contest judge indicated a hugely successful planning effort. Hats off to the Alpha Chapter and Chapter Advisor Scott McCrae!

I often wish that my father was still with us, but never more so than today. He was ever proud of Sigma Phi, but would be especially proud – so extraordinarily pleased with his fraternity – today!

Sincerely,

Craigin Howard Salsgiver



Alpha of North Carolina: New Lease on Life

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

The youngest chapter of our band, the Alpha of North Carolina, at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill is getting fired up. Maybe I should say “Phired Up” as the latest pledge class of 17 men was professionally enlisted by a recruiting firm of that name! These new pledges were formally ushered into the Sigma Phi Society on April 16 in Chapel Hill.



The ropes course in Chapel Hill

Sounds straightforward enough, right? Ah, but the story of the “Tar Heel” chapter has been an interesting one, replete with hope, growing pains, drama and...a new lease on life.

In 2005, the Standing and Advisory Committee was eager to consider expansion possibilities. With the Lehigh chapter having been lost in 2002 and the Hobart College administration seriously looking at the possibility of doing away with social fraternities, the Society’s “critical mass” was clearly threatened. General Secretary Scott McCrae V’82, was charged with looking for a school that met Sigma Phi’s expansion criteria, among them:

- A substantial alumni group in the area
- Reasonable proximity to an existing chapter
- College conditions generally similar to those institutions where Sigma Phi already existed
- An adequate financial foundation

Many schools were eager to expand their fraternity systems but most wanted fraternities bent on “expansion for profit.” In this arena, Sigma Phi was not interested in competing.

Ultimately, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill was chosen. The S&A authorized the expansion committee (Scott McCrae, V’82, Marshall Solem, F’79, and GAMA Director Donald Beeson) to start the process of recruiting an alumni group to serve as the Alumni Corporation and to begin the actual recruitment process of undergraduates. A supporting budget of \$25,000 was established. By tradition (not bylaw), the closest chapter geographically serves as the “sponsoring chapter” of the natal chapter. The Alpha of Virginia gladly accepted that role, and UVA undergraduates traveled to Chapel Hill and held recruitment gatherings such as barbecues, attending sports events and other events. They eventually recruited four men who were swung in Charlottesville on 5 April 2008.

On that joyful and promising occasion, Chairman Marshall Solem, F’79, formally presented the new members with the chapter’s charter signed by all members of the S&A committee. It was decided that the call letter for the chapter would be “T” for Tar Heel. A gala banquet ensued

with poetry and oration from members of most of our chapters and the first chapter. On that April evening, the first chapter in the life of the Alpha of North Carolina was written.

Fast forward to the general convention of 2010, which would provide the genesis for chapter two of our story.

At each General Convention business session, all chapters deliver individual

reports: mini “state of the chapter” summaries, if you will. When it was the Tar Heel chapter’s turn, Sean List, T’08, advised that the Alpha was in dire straits, having initiated only one new brother since 2008. To make matters more acute, Sean further observed that three T’08 undergrads would soon graduate. He petitioned for help from Society leaders and any chapter willing to help.

The S&A recognized that it needed to intervene...and immediately. It was clearly a ‘make or break’ crossroads for the young chapter. General Secretary Scott McCrae V’82, conferred at length with Sean List before traveling to Chapel Hill to make plans to somehow shore up recruitment. In October of 2010, Scott met with the alumni corporation officers and subsequently with the entire Alpha to come to a consensus on how to proceed. With conventional methods having fallen flat, one of the most intriguing (and financially viable) options was to hire a professional firm named “Phired Up,” to recruit a new Sig class on campus.

Negotiations between Sigma Phi and Phired Up commenced in early December. It was decided that recruitment would take place from February 15 through March 1 2011. As a precondition, Sigma Phi would need to provide Phired Up with the following:

- 200 names and contact information of freshmen and sophomore men at UNC
- A clear set of criteria for new Sig recruits
- Marketing materials (brochure, referral card, Power Point presentation on the Society & formal “bid card”)

Sigma Phi and Phired Up came to agreement on terms in January and moved forward to prepare for the arrival of Phired Up’s team in Chapel Hill. Scott McCrae had met Phired Up staffers Nick Gilly and Doug Sweeney in the past. He was impressed with their professionalism, knowledge and tremendous work ethic. He was more impressed still with Phired Up’s track record in this critical line of fraternity work.

Prior to coming to Chapel Hill, Nick and Doug contacted as many of the men from the “names list” we provided as possible. Many of those were Moorehead-Cain Scholars or Robertson

(Continued on page 5)

Scholars. Others came from sports teams and clubs of various types.

In addition to canvassing these men ahead of time, Phired Up also set up meetings with seven UNC sororities. In Phired Up's experience, one of the most fruitful ways of finding quality recruits has been by asking for specific referrals from sorority women!

Phired Up's sorority strategy is worth describing. Protocols involved:
 1) Arriving at the sorority meeting in coat and Sigma Phi tie wearing "I love Sigma Phi" buttons (flowers are brought to the meetings also);
 2) Delivering Power Point presentation on Sigma Phi history & attributes;
 3) Discussing the project and describing Sigma Phi's goals; and
 4) Handing out the Sigma Phi referral cards and collecting candid referrals from the sorority women.

Orderly. Yes. Methodical. Yes. But was such an unorthodox recruitment ultimately successful?

Yes! At Chapel Hill, Nick and Doug expected to get more than 30 names at each sorority meeting. These referrals were all followed up. Doug and Nick matched them to Sigma Phi's criteria for membership, prescribed as follows:

- Men who want to start a new fraternity at UNC: one different from and more inclusive than current fraternities.
- Men who are socially adept and extroverted, likely members of other organizations, teams, clubs, etc.
- Men with a diversity of interests (sports, music, art) and backgrounds (social, political, ethnic, religious, and more).
- Men who are scholars, currently carrying at least 2.75 GPAs.
- Men interested in Sigma Phi's unique culture, likely to buy badges, visit other chapters, and participate in all meetings, philanthropies and social events.



Brand new Tarheel brotherhood

- Men committed to living together in a Sigma Phi house either next fall or spring depending on logistics of finding suitable housing.
- Men with interest in improving the world around them, as evidenced by being registered to vote, having good credit, have a history of service, etc.
- Men with the ability to meet financial obligations.

The raw referral lists (about 200 names) were winnowed down to approximately 50 men. These 50 were invited to attend a series of three informational meetings. After the first meeting, men with a definite interest were invited to attend a second meeting with any questions they might have. After that event, if questions were answered to their satisfaction and all objections were squared away, they were asked if they would accept a bid. If they said 'yes', they were given a bid. If they were still on the fence, they were invited to a third meeting. This extended process of recruiting, informing, and inviting was designed to reveal those who had genuine interest in Sigma Phi. Ultimately, that process netted us 20 men – all freshmen – who displayed great interest in the Society.

At this point, the T'08s and the alumni corporation held the first pledge meetings on campus. Three undergrads dropped out along the way; we ended up with a pledge class of 17. This unprecedented recruitment effort was another outstanding success for Phired Up at the same time that it resulted in a major (and necessary!) stake in the ground for Sigma Phi. The Phired Up recruiters attributed this remarkable success to Sigma Phi's history, our values and a unique, attractive opportunity to build something not currently extant in Chapel Hill.

On April 3, Scott McCrae, V'82, and Donald Beeson held a strategic planning and goal-setting retreat with the new pledge class in

(Continued at bottom of page 10)



Sean List, T'08 (L), facilitates pledge orientation.

Living the Charge

by John Rawley, V'05 johnrawley@gmail.com

The Charge calls on us to cultivate our mind, body, and spirit to their best and highest uses. This exhortation has become a standing challenge in my daily life: am I actively working to meet it? When my answer to this question is 'yes', life is usually filled with very positive happenings. Cultivating these fundamentals doesn't just happen. It involves goal setting. Very little inspires me more than to see Brothers articulate a goal and then put everything on the line to reach it. When they're successful, I use that inspiration to sustain my own efforts in reaching goals. I think about their work and say to myself: "He did it and so can I." I recently watched as two of our Brothers accomplished remarkable personal goals and would like to share their stories with you. They're excellent reminders of what happens when you take this section of the Charge to heart.

As an undergraduate, Steve Gifford, V'06, was a presence at the Alpha of Vermont: literally! He's a giant of a man and has a commanding air about him. While this made him an invaluable part of our security detail during parties, he was also intelligent, both academically and emotionally. It was clear that he was going to make good in life. Facing an abysmal job market a few months prior to graduating, he called his sister, who had recently been laid off from her job in New York City. They'd always talked about going into business together and now recognized they had a window to act on it. They put together prototypes for their product, had a lawyer secure a patent for their design, and launched Harding Lane. Harding Lane's goal was to manufacture baseball hats featuring a needlepoint image of an animal on the front and clasp on the back made of recycled sailcloth. They made a commitment to be eco-friendly and invested all of their personal savings in the project. Fast forward two years and several major setbacks involving their Asian manufacturing partners....and they've successfully gotten Harding Lane off the ground! They've sold more than 500 hats through their website, www.hardinglane.com, and boutiques throughout New England. It's quite the accomplishment. When I caught up with Steve recently, he reflected on his experience and noted that "Everyone talks about starting a company, but so many people hit their first roadblock and say 'screw it.' We knew we had to keep pushing because we've probably hit 10,000 roadblocks since then." Inspiring words, if you ask me. More to the point....inspiring behavior!

Renier Van Breen, V'06, is a close friend and someone who holds himself to a set of daunting personal standards. On more than one undergraduate occasion, he would remind me that "you're better than that" when I made a mistake or didn't put my full effort into a house project. I stole that line from him and use it to motivate friends – and me! – to this day. I like to be with Renier because his hunger for success is contagious. After graduating, he explored several fields before determining that he wanted to become a Navy SEAL. That goal went beyond merely



becoming a SEAL; it involved being the top in his class. I watched as he hit the pool for two hours a day, ran, worked out, and monitored his diet closely for several months before entering the preliminary stages of official training. He sacrificed his social life and made every decision with his end goal in mind. It came as no surprise to us when he received a black sweatshirt signifying that he was at the top of his class of new recruits during the preliminary stages, far exceeding the standard physical requirements. He shipped off to the Great Lakes region in August of 2010 with 260 other SEALs recruits for several months before heading to the naval base in Coronado, California. He pushed through as others around him submitted to increasingly intense training evolutions and his class dropped in size to 90 recruits. Sustained partly by more than a dozen letters of encouragement from Sigs, on March 6 he entered the infamous Navy SEALs Hell Week: one of the most demanding physical and mental tests on the planet. Over the next five and a half days, Renier overcame 20 hours of physical training per day – much of it in the frigid waters of the Pacific Ocean – running a total of more

(Continued at bottom of page 7)

Reflections on Sigma Phi ... From 10,000 Miles Away

by John Machulski, L'84 john.machulski@ge.com

An email recently crossed my desk from the Alpha of PA. It had been some quite time since I had received any correspondence from Sigma Phi, and thus it immediately caught my eye. When I scrolled through the names in the address list, I came upon Mike Imirie, M'69, former Sigma Phi Secretary, and a man whom I looked up to during my years as an active. It literally had been years since I thought of Mike, and I quickly dropped him a note to catch up. From Mike's response, it was apparent to me that his passion for the brotherhood had not diminished over the years, and his involvement in chapter activities continues. Moreover, his inherent ability to engage you to do something on behalf of Sigma Phi, coupled with an energy that makes it impossible to say "no," bring me to this column today.

It would be fair to say Sigma Phi has crossed my mind infrequently over the past several years. At 45 years old, I have been out of Lehigh almost 25 years. My family and career consume much of my time and energy. Several years ago, we moved to Singapore, a good 10,000 miles away from the closest Sig house. My last trip to the Lehigh campus was in 2005, and this was the last time I was able to enjoy a Sig gathering. Since then, I have linked up with a few Sigs in Asia as they have passed through Singapore on business, and I have kept in close



Mosaic in the foyer of the Alpha of Pennsylvania

contact with my Sig big brother, Roland Schroeder, L'83, and his family. Essentially though, as my life has gone on, I've fallen out of the "Sigma Phi Mainstream."

That said, it is the little snippets of Sigma Phi life, occasional dinners and meet-ups, an email exchange or two coupled with social networking threads, that often remind me of the permanence of the bonds that were established so many years ago. Much to my astonishment, it is now close to 30 years since I was swung into the Sig Brotherhood. To the outsider, fraternity life may seem like it is all about the party. Yet, the real lessons in brotherhood, leadership, trust, and camaraderie that I learned so many years ago in the Alpha of PA have aided me in reaching this point in my life, and I

am very much at peace with where I am, both personally and professionally.

What a journey! Who would have suspected that a walk up the hill from my freshman dorm room on a steamy August night in 1983 would have been so formative? Who could have known that my first visit – a very casual one – to the Sigma Phi house at Lehigh would have a long-term life impact on my life? Our university years naturally teach much about academics, logical thinking and problem solving. Equally important to personal and professional success are how you interact with others, how you operate in a team environment, and your

general energy level and attitude regarding the people and the events happening all around you. My experiences at Lehigh and as part of the Sigma Phi brotherhood undoubtedly contributed much when I look at my life today.

I have a 15-year-old son of my own. In three years, that young man will begin his university time. I can only hope that Jack will benefit from a brotherhood experience as enriching and as formative as was mine.

Should any Sigs find themselves passing through Singapore, please be sure to drop me a line. Again and again, the legacy of Sigma Phi demonstrates there's nothing like sharing a drink and some stories with old friends, thousands of miles from where those stories were first lived out.

(Continued from page 6) than 200 miles and getting a combined four hours' sleep. Of the 90 men who started, he was one of only 47 to successfully complete the grueling requirements. I can't imagine the level of determination it took to reach this goal but I am hugely inspired by Renier's accomplishment.

It's a privilege for me to know these two examples of Sigs achieving success firsthand. Across the length and breadth of our Society, there are of course hundreds more.

Might it be that such achievements are much more common among Sigs than among other groups?

To the degree that the answer is 'yes', perhaps our Charge is a big reason for this phenomenon. It challenges us to be better people and to do something solid – something strong – with our personal abilities. As we seek to meet this lifelong Sig challenge, my hope is that the successes Brothers Steve and Renier have earned in their lives can serve as an inspiration to us all.

Union and Wisconsin Accorded 2010 Newsletter Awards

by Dan Neumann, F'71 dca120@sbcglobal.net



Generation after generation, Sigma Phi takes great pain to lift up the values of Friendship, Love and Truth. There's another value in our Society that's truly praiseworthy: communications. In that context, each convention features a special tribute to such fraternal communication.

The Society conferred its 2009-10 annual Newsletter Awards at the National Convention in Burlington, Vermont. The winner of the undergraduate competition was the Alpha of Wisconsin, publishers of *The Alpha Architect*. The Pepperbox, published by the Alpha of New York, took top honors in the competition involving newsletters published by alumni organizations.

The two awards separate recognize

both the frequency and the quality of overall communication efforts by Sigma Phi's local chapters and their associated alumni.

The chapters' award-winning newsletters are posted and available for reading on Sigma Phi's national website (www.sigmaphi.org). We applaud these chapters for their efforts in communicating with their graduates to nurture the flame shared by all initiates.

The Pepperbox earned Union its first national Alumni Newsletter Award since the recognition program's inception in 1990, while making the Alpha the fifth different alumni organization to win the award in the past four years. The Wisconsin active chapter's award is its fourth in a row and seventh overall.

In concert with the Sigma Phi Educational Foundation, the Standing & Advisory Committee encourages all chapters to communicate regularly with their members. Chapters are asked to provide a copy of their electronic publications to Newsletter Recognition Chairman Dan Neumann, F'71 (dca120@sbcglobal.net), for posting on Sigma Phi's national website and automatic entry into the competition.

All chapters and alumni organizations are encouraged to send printed publications for competition judging by placing Dan's name and address (120 Campbell Road, Trumbull, CT 06611) on their mailing list three times, thereby automatically providing sufficient copies to meet the needs of the judges.

Convention 2011 on the Shores of Seneca Lake

Brothers,

Allow me to formally invite you all to the 180th Convention of the Sigma Phi Society, to be held on the shores of Seneca Lake. This year marks a decade since the Delta last hosted a convention, and we are all eager to host brothers young and old for a much needed, splendid Sigma Phi event.

The festivities are planned for the weekend of September 16th 2011, one of the most beautiful times of year for the Finger Lakes region. Since hosting our last convention, a plethora of new wineries have opened up on the shores of the lakes, which makes the region a 'must visit' for oenophiles across the country. In addition to wine tours, there are many opportunities to take advantage of fishing, hiking, golf, and a host of other outdoor activities and enjoy the splendor of the Finger Lakes.

During this time of year, hotels fill up quickly in the region and so reservations have been made in Geneva, as well as the surrounding towns to accommodate everyone interested in attending. Please visit www.sigmaphi.org to view details about registration, accommodations and costs.

On behalf of the brothers of the Delta, those living and those no longer with us but not forgotten, I bid you all good tidings for this year and hope that you will join us in Geneva this fall. We have taken elaborate pains to ensure that it will not snow...and that a great exercise in Friendship, Love and Truth is available to all!

BSL,

Timothy Starr G'05 timothy.g.starr@gmail.com 609-238-5403



Fencing in California

by Tex Currie, I'77 williamcurrie@comcast.net

In early 2010, I was contacted by Tim “Dogman” Moran, I'76, about holding another fundraiser for the House. (I had staged a previous fundraiser in October 2005).

A fundraiser was needed because the wooden fence that once enclosed our backyard had fallen down due to age and decay. A new fence was needed, not just for aesthetic value, but because the tenants in the apartment building behind the House were using the brick wall as a short cut home, occasionally even hanging out on the bench by the barbecue. Their trespassing was not just a privacy issue but a legal one; if someone were to be injured falling off the wall, the Sigma Phi could be liable.

The Alumni Board had apparently tried earlier to raise the estimated \$16,000 with limited success. They were considering hiring a professional to raise funds when Tim suggested my name. Thrice Illustrious optimist that I am, I agreed to take on the project!

I contacted Short Notice, a beloved band in our area, about possible dates, and October 16 worked for all the band members. For those who are unaware, Short Notice™ has been the de facto House band since its inception in 1973. Comprised of Sigs Barney Doyle, I'72, Mike Giachino, I'72, Mark Patterson, I'74, and Jon Blaufarb, I'77, along with honorary Sigs Danny Montgomery and Gary Davidson, the band also occasionally includes Tom Saxby, I'79, and Ross Blaufarb, I'80, as well as talented civilians Mike Emerson, Doug Shernock, Christine Lakeland, Nancy Hall and Lee Parvin. Almost all of these band members play professionally, either part-time or full-time.

Back in 2005, in organizing the previous fundraiser, I found that the available California Sigma Phi database was sadly inadequate. I spent literally months updating it, only to have my hard drive crash along the way. Fortunately, I had a hard copy of the data, which I delivered to the then-House President, so that the files could be updated. Unfortunately, that work was never completed; worse still, the hard copy appears to be AWOL.

Working off two available but older Excel membership files, I contacted as many brothers as I could locate.

Despite the limitations of a severely incomplete database, the actual event was a great success. Gregor Nelson, I'76, once again designed a beautiful poster to commemorate the event. The band's performance matched Gregor's artistry; we enjoyed a stellar mix of covers of the Grateful Dead, the Rolling Stones, the Who, and others. They sounded great!

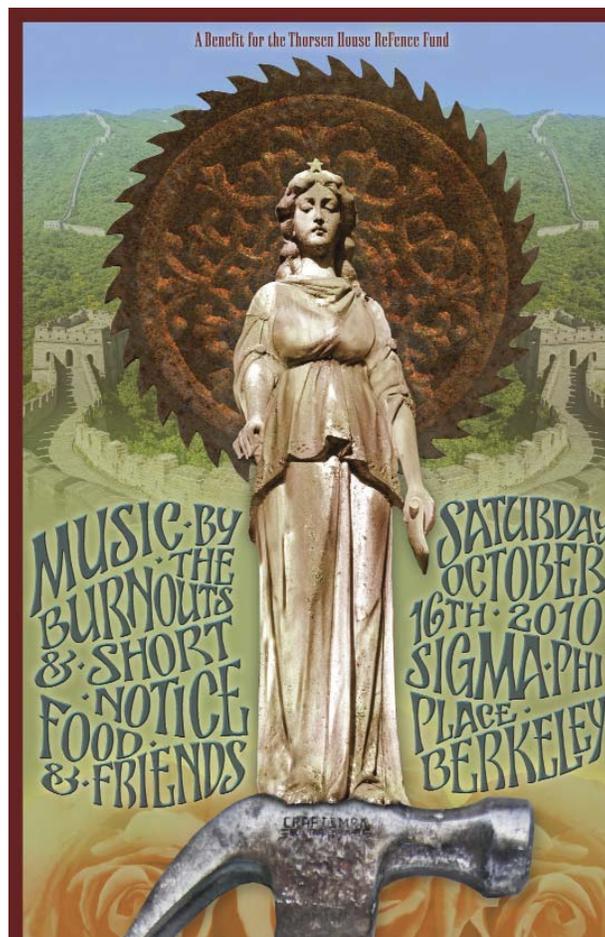
The party was attended by the usual suspects – i.e., Sigs of the '70s and early '80s – with a handful of Sigs from later years. Many Sigs who could not personally attend nonetheless made donations.

I would like to thank all who contributed, especially those with limited incomes. Special thanks go out to those heavy hitters who contributed \$1000 or more and to Dick Lawson, I'67, who very kindly circulated the donation information to his '67-'68 peers who weren't in the database. I also salute our actives, who donated their profits from the summer boarders: \$5500!

Additional kudos must go to House President Adam Hoagland, I'09, for all his help in coordinating the event with me, and to the Brothers for making the House look beautiful. Several current House members attended the event, socializing with the elder Brothers and guests, and enjoying the music of Sigma Phi's only house band. I must say that the current crop of actives and pledges is a special one: guys who really care about our House and this Society. I urge all alumni to make a point

of visiting the House soon to get to know them ... and be reminded of 'the ties that bind.'

When the last electronic chord had been played that October night, I was able to deliver a check for \$12,425 to Alumni Board Treasurer Dan McNear, I'78. While that amount was less than the overall cost we projected, it was surely enough to make a handsome dent in this important project. Hearty thanks to all the Sigs and Sig Sisters who turned out in support.



Advertising poster custom-created by Gregor Nelson, I'76

Note: Directed by Dave Munroe, I'86, and Tom Saxby, I'79, fence construction continues at 2307 Piedmont, with project completion expected this September. – Ed.

Long Term Dues Thinking

by Christopher Nicholson, S'01 christopher.nicholson@yahoo.com

I recently turned 30 and found that reaching the milestone of a new decade precipitated some introspection. It was a time for examining prospects and planning for the future. But it was also a time for returning to what had gone before: to those relationships I considered formative. While the Sigma Phi had never been far from my thoughts in the eight years since graduation, it was a time for weighing the value of things, both personally and in a broader context.

Our Brotherhood leaves an indelible mark upon all those men fortunate enough to be made part of its universal family. The impression may be different for each individual brother, but it is indelible, nonetheless. During his active years, each brother contributes in his own way. Some step forward to take offices, guiding their chapters in daily affairs. Others may simply offer their love and friendship: gifts no less valuable or authentic.

And so it is in our years as alumni. As each of us strides out into the world, none forgets his connection to the Brotherhood of Sigma Phi. Some of us will have opportunities to return regularly to our chapters; it's a two-way blessing when wandering birds come home to survey our ancient and perpetual lineage. Others may not have that luxury. I regret that, as an alumnus, I have not been able to participate actively in the life of the house at 163 Rugby Road outside of its email list. Near or far, though, each can contribute in his

own way. And such participation in Sigma Phi is by no means limited just to the chapters each of us knew so well.

Not long ago, I received a letter from our national leadership. Along the lines described above, that letter from Chairman Marshall Solem, F'79, got me thinking. Ongoing participation. Lifelong membership. Hmmmm ... I decided to review my dues contributions so far – such as they were – and to bring myself current from the time of graduation to the present. While it didn't make up for my lack of direct participation, I knew in my heart it was the right thing for me to do.

My response got me thinking anew. I ask each brother to contemplate what the Sigma Phi means to YOU, and to consider whether you could perhaps do the same. If your circumstances allow you to reach back and address dues campaigns past, know that your hard-earned dollars will be used well. These are still difficult economic times for many of us, and it's understandable that many Brothers cannot afford to go back and 'make up for lost time' as I did. But even if we all just start participating in the annual dues program going forward, those efforts will make a difference: a certain difference.

Many of our chapters remain under attack by anti-Greek sentiment, and our national organization is best positioned to protect and keep vibrant the flame that we have all come to cherish. The national Sigma Phi organization and its programming strategy



Christopher Nicholson, S'01

(e.g., the Renaissance Program) ensures our continued relevance for today's young men on today's campuses. It also serves as the tie that binds us all together as a behaviors and traditions-based Society rather than as a random collection of local social clubs.

As my age increases and my thinking matures, I have come to understand that our contributions to the Sigma Phi Society make an important difference for our individual chapters and for the Thrice Illustrious itself. Today, this year and every year, Brothers, I encourage you to join me in doing what we can to assist. The old Sig saying we learned in conclave – "Among so few, the influence of each is deeply felt" – is an unequivocal and eternal Sig truth. 

Alpha of North Carolina (continued from page 5) Chapel Hill. The customized workshop took an entire day. It covered pledge aspirations and goals for the evolving Sig chapter and created a formal plan for reaching those goals.

On April 15, Marshall Solem, F'79, and Scott McCrae, V'82, returned to Chapel Hill in order to initiate the new class on the following day. The evening of the 15th was spent with the T'08's and Alumni Corporation President Steven Wright, S'93, making final plans and determining initiation logistics. On the morning of April 16, Marshall and Scott participated in a combination high and low ropes course with the pledges as the beginning portion of this ground-breaking initiation. The course was conducted by staffers at UNC's outdoor educational facility. Steve Wright

worked with the instructors to tailor the course to emphasize Sigma Phi's values. The course taught the values of teamwork, trust, and communication. Based on these values, and drawing on the framework of Friendship, Love and Truth, it served in a dramatic way to help bond the group together.

A traditional, formal initiation ceremony followed in the late afternoon. The group reconvened later for a Tunk at a beautiful downtown venue called "La Residence" in downtown Chapel Hill. The new brothers met there with their dates and area alumni along with several wandering birds and enjoyed a fabulous dinner together. Toasts, Sig singing, and hearty congratulations filled the air. It was a fitting end to a promising new beginning for Sigma Phi in Chapel Hill. 

Departed Vermont Sig Impetus for Memorial Oratory

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

The Alpha of Vermont held its inaugural “Richard Hovey Davis Memorial Oratorical Contest” on April 19, 2011. The contest was held in the campus’ Billings North Library and featured 5 contestants from the University’s freshman and sophomore classes. Celebrity judges included former Vermont Governor James H. Douglas, Dan Senning Post of the Post Institute (and great-great grandson of Emily Post) as well as Albert “Tuna” Snider, UVM English professor and coach of the UVM debate team. Scholarships were awarded in the amounts of \$500 (1st place), \$200 (2nd place) and \$100 (3rd place). Afterwards, Sig actives and alumni hosted a reception at the Sigma Phi Place to announce and honor the winners.

The contest was named after the late Richard Davis, V’77, affectionately known as “Hovey.” Hovey was a leader

and was president of the undergraduate chapter for two terms in 1978 and ’79. He went on to become a member of the faculty at UVM, serving as its Greek advisor in 1984 and 1985. Hovey’s values of leadership, integrity and academic prowess truly personified Sigma Phi’s values. In February of 2010, Hovey lost a courageous battle with brain cancer. Graduate brothers were quick to donat-



Winning orator receives 1st place prize

ed funds to create an endowment. It was fitting to honor Hovey’s memory by inaugurating this event in his name.

The contest was the result of a goal set at the undergraduate leadership retreat which is part of Sigma Phi’s National Renaissance program. At a time when fraternity relevance is a key institutional expectation, this program served us well by showcasing our commitment to oratory, communication and public speaking. It may well have also provided a “halo effect” for the entire UVM Greek community.

Hearty congratulations to all alumni and undergraduate Sigs who worked on this event, both for its nuts-and-bolts success and for the message it sends about Sigma Phi.

For information about the event’s dynamics, see the accompanying piece by Ginger Williamson, VSS’95.

Davis Oratory Dynamics

by Ginger Williamson, VSS’95 campwestwick@hotmail.com

This year’s inaugural contest was open to first and second year UVM students, and the topic they were to expound upon was “What is the definition of personal success in today’s world?” Judged by an expert panel of three, the contest drew five speakers – 2 women & 3 men – each of whom shared an interesting take on the topic at hand.

The speakers were all passionate about their subjects, and each brought a different style to the event. They were Hicks-level speakers, if you ask me, even if none had a connection to the Sigma Phi Society.

After the orators had held forth, an announcement was made that winners and prizes would be announced back at the Sigma Phi Place, instead of at Billings. This meant that people who had probably never thought of setting foot into the Society’s halls had to make a visit and see the place for themselves.

The Vermont actives who hosted the reception back at the House were well dressed, convivial and hospitable.

They provided a simple table of food and non-alcoholic beverages, and helped make all who entered feel welcome. It was a wonderful public relations event, without any sense of public relations or putting on an act. It was natural and warm, and I can’t help but think that more than a few guests viewed this Society differently when they left at the end of the evening.

Personally, I was inspired by this event. And not just because I’m an enthusiastic Sig Sister; there was another reason! My husband, Chris, and I took our two children to the event, and they discussed the speeches and speakers with clarity and interest. For the first time, I suspect, they saw that public speaking can be compelling and rewarding, and not just something that grown-ups do because they have to. As a mom, I was very pleased. As stakeholders, the evening left each of us thinking



The 5 UVM contestants

about the importance of public speaking skills, interpersonal connections, and the definition of success.

The Society would do well to replicate this type of event on each college campus where Sigma Phi has a presence. It honors the values that embody Sigma Phi: public speaking, grace under pressure, and a pursuit of education for a lifetime of achievement and learning. By sponsoring student oratorical contests, it seems to me, Sigma Phi enhances its brotherhood at the same time that it demonstrates commitment to its ideals in action.



Foundation Giving



Appearing here is the list of donors to the Sigma Phi Educational Foundation's 2010 Annual Campaign which includes some separate donors who specifically supported Sigma Phi's Renaissance Program both before and after the 2010 Annual Campaign began. Donors to any of the special SPEF funds or fundraising efforts such as the Thorsen House Fund or the Cal Howard Leadership Fund are not included in this list.

The donor list is arranged by donor recognition club levels, and then by chapter within each recognition club.

Silken Tie

(\$500 +)

Glenn R. George C'82
Thomas M. Mullins Jr. C'95
Mark A. Geary G'79
Frank T. Sindoni G'84
David W. Pauls M'65
Robert E. Tuoriniemi M'77
Scott A. McCrae V'82
Patrick J. Brill S'53
David A. Williams W'61
Erick J. Laine F'52
Treach R. Martin F'49
Gregory Knight Smith F'89

Magic Circle Sponsor

(\$250-499)

Richard B. Melbye I'52
Stephen L. Smith G'75
H. Theodore Bahr III L'77
William Doig Brennan L'78
Patrick R. Gaillard M'72
Stephen VanMeter M'80
William R. Hughes Jr. U'57
H. Scott Johnson V'60
Morton Lord V'57
James L. Jenkins S'58
William J. Cohen F'90
Raymond Evan Schneider F'03
Marshall C. Solem F'79

Twenty Pearl Sponsor

(\$100-249)

Richard E. Glenn Jr. I'49
Clifford E. Graffuis I'71
Gregory Harriman MD I'75
Robert P. Harshberger Jr. I'59
Roland H. Isaak I'70
Timothy Moran I'76
Glen A. Phillips I'46
W. Timothy Ryan I'56
Scott B. Sinclair I'74
Nathaniel R. Bowditch C'52
Anthony W. Bryant C'49
Garrett R. Codrington C'58
J. William Ekegren Jr. C'41
Peter T. Flynn C'66
Christopher K. Kete C'91
John Ogden C'36
Richard S. Allen H'36
Jon Paul Bellona H'00
Edward J. Bennett Jr. H'51

Timothy Pickering Jr. H'78
Lindsay Saville Suter H'83
W. W. Woods Davis G'56
Thomas Hamilton G'60
Ralph M. Peter Harter Esq. G'65
Paul M. Hughes G'64
Andrew Rochat G'85
Jason A. Ryan G'95
Barry R. Stewart G'56
Peter R. VanBrunt G'59
Kevin J. Creales L'89
David A. Garden L'48
Frederick C. Mueller L'61
Barron Torrey Nagle L'85
Theodore R. Ochs Jr. L'83
James C. Oswalt L'76
John E. Romaine L'90
Roland G. Schroeder L'83
John B. Fyfe Jr. M'46
John D. Hibbard Jr. M'51
Mark W. Isken M'85
George Ladner M'67
Edward E. Mack III M'62
George D. Mercer M'68
Robert J. Mersereau M'74
Timothy M. Ozga M'88
Robert L. Randolph M'50
John Levering Wiese MD M'41
Albert G. Borden Jr. U'36
Frederick W. Campbell III U'70
Gerard Grau MD U'66
Mark A. Jaffe U'84
Dan Lacoff U'78
Stuart A. Steinberg U'86
Edward L. Strong U'47
Andrew Wagshul U'89
Christopher R. Walsh DDS U'90
David B. Aronoff V'83
James W. Atchison V'59
William F. Callahan IV V'87
Michael Collins V'59
Ernest Cordes V'59
George W. Davenport III V'48
Ralph Edelman V'66
David Gardner V'59
Steven J. Jones V'62
John B. Meyer V'63
Stephen B. Penwell V'82
Carl W. Sundstrom Jr. V'56
Horace Sylvester V'58
Harold Williamson V'61
William B. Buchanan Jr. S'78
David L. Dallas Jr. S'79

George P. Nowlin III S'83
Brendan J. O'Rourke S'78
William H. Poarch S'54
John B. Torrence S'74
Peter D. Hutcheon W'62
Ralph L. MacDonald Jr. W'60
Robert M. Pyle Jr. W'57
Thomas S. Amlie F'44
Steven M. Curtis F'96
Ronald R. Fiedler F'52
Gerald L. Harned MD F'56
Jack R. Harned F'51
Scott Hekel F'97
John H. Helm F'81
Philip G. Henderson F'55
Jackson R. Horton F'49
Christopher J. Knuth F'78
Frederick M. Lamont F'72
John B. Morley F'80
Arthur C. Nielsen Jr. F'38
Alex Karl Runge F'92
Kyle Edward Siettmann F'91
Thomas A. Winkel F'53
Milton K. Woodhouse F'38

Spirit of Friendship

Contributor (up to \$99)

Edward R. Bosley III I'73
Moses Cesario I'89
Everett E. Fuller I'44
Thomas Osborne I'52
Benjamin G. Taylor Jr. I'36
J. Michael Traynor I'52
Kenneth L. Treganowen I'45
J. Dwight Wilson I'46
Anthony L. Wotkins I'57
Christopher Stappers Bartels C'06
Frederick D. Bloom C'57
Marshall P. Hoke C'35
Charles Bennett Hyatt C'04
Charles T. Bates H'50
E. Marston Jones III H'57
Ian Lawson H'01
John B. MacLaren H'79
Peter F. Birkel Jr. G'56
Charles P. Boswell II G'47
Charles Delamater G'71
Addison C. Ellerman G'57
Ernest H. Greppin Jr. G'57
Horace Havemeyer III G'62
Thomas B. Mafri G'83
Kip Christopher Moncrief G'03
John R. Pearson Jr. G'73
Geoffrey P. Talbott G'92
Thomas C. Taylor G'63
John P. Beal Jr. L'37
John H. Boardman L'51
Peter Y. Bolger L'66
Richard S. Dorer L'66
Richard A. Guior L'79
Mori Insinger M'87
Joseph J. Laski L'81
Thomas W. Cranmer M'69
Michael Gordon M'80
Peter F. Grylls M'50
Carl F. Mehlhop M'46
Ronald Morgan M'52
Stephan Morse M'64
Matthew D. Muir M'92
Richard J. Osius M'56
Ismael Lee Sanchez M'95
Robert Francis Sharrow III M'98
R. Steven Albert U'74
Howard G. Carpenter Jr. U'58
Jackson Goddard U'54
Daniel Rickson U'97
Peter K. Smith U'67
William B. Adams V'58
Michael F. Geisser V'70
Robert R. Haney V'59
Elias Lyman VIII V'71
Richard H. Miller V'66
David J. Pascuzzi V'90
Joshua Roach V'90
Howard Joseph Rosenzweig V'98
Kevin P. Smith V'96
John J. Sweeney III V'86
J. Robert Tank V'60
Graham B. Anthony S'83
Mark E. Bowers Jr. S'61
J. Hornor Davis IV S'72
Joseph F. Kent III S'63
Joseph G. Murray S'69
Charles Heuer W'42
Peter Manus W'62
David Postlewaite W'60
Matthew G. Boylan F'96
Theodore P. Briski Jr. F'80
Scott B. Miller MD F'73
Samuel L. Moore F'70
Curtis Nelson F'75
David G. Pocost F'81
Ronald Schmaedick F'56
David Strasburg F'85
Scott W. Tarmann F'87

For more information, contact SPEF President David Pauls, M'65 (davendavid@sbcglobal.net).



News of INTEREST

Bill Ackerbauer, U'92, has been awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities grant that will allow him to attend a "Landmarks of American History & Culture" seminar in Concord, Mass., this July. There, he will study with scholars from around the nation and tour sites associated with Emerson, Thoreau, Hawthorne, and other major figures of the American Renaissance. Bill teaches English at Fulton-Montgomery Community College in his hometown of Johnstown, N.Y., and also works as an editor and writer for his local newspaper. His blog on the newspaper's website (www.leaderherald.com) has won several statewide awards, including the most recent New York News Publishers Association's Distinguished Online Blog Award. Bill and his wife, Sig Sister Jennifer Sponnoble, USS'99, have two sons, Liam and Carter, ages nine and six. In his spare time, that talented gentleman has been polishing his fiddle skills and plays old-timey music in a two-man string band, The Bentwood Rockers. (www.thebentwoodrockers.com)
smokinbill@aol.com

Dave Dallas, S'79, shares this update: "In February, I was asked to give a risk management presentation to undergrads in Charlottesville in connection with the House's recognition agreement with the University. Rather than the usual talk about illegal substances and behaviors, I prepared the sort of "What I've learned" check list and went over it with them. Frankly, I think they liked the Dating, Marriage and Family section the best – no doubt due to raging hormones. They also seemed interested in what I call "sleep fun facts": unexpected things I've learned from a Cornell professor who wrote the Power of Sleep. Examples? Your brain resaves short term memory as long term memory during REM sleep, which is why it is really important for them to get 8 or 9 hours, whether learning motor skills,

math or your girlfriend's eye shadow and favorite recipes! I highly recommend the book – and the opportunity to re-engage with your active chapter." (Snaps to Brother Dallas...and to all alumni who personally role model ongoing, authentic interactions with young Sigs.)
ddallas@williamsmullen.com

Josh Dobrowsky, M'94, writes: "I decided to leave the Harness Dickey law office for an in-house patent attorney position at the Eaton Corporation in its Southfield, Michigan, office. This is in the same few months that my wife, Katy, is opening the Michigan office of a Massachusetts and New York litigation boutique. With Peter who is six, Owen who is four, and Charlie who is 18 months, it's a constant carnival in the house. joshd247@gmail.com

Derek Fredrickson, V'94, has been busy with family and career changes over the past few years. After spending years on Wall Street, Derek left UBS Investment Bank in Stamford, CT to work alongside his wife at their small business marketing company, ClientAttraction.com. Together, they help entrepreneurs grow their small businesses using marketing and personal development seminars and programs. As their business has grown (8 employees hired in the last 2 years from zero), their family has also grown. They now have 3 small children. Claire (8), Luc (6) and Oliver who will be two this summer. They currently live

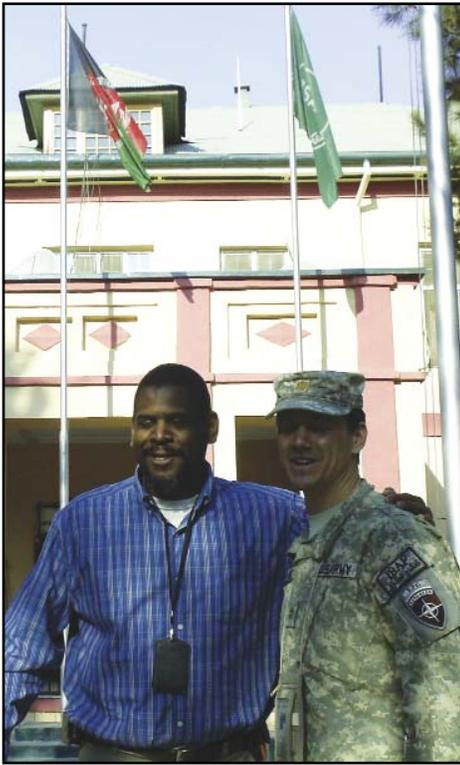


alongside the beaches of Stamford.
derek@fredrickson.com

Tom Galfano, F'87, tells us he decided to pursue an MBA at Marquette University. He says he always wanted an MBA but delayed the decision while his three kids were little. Rex Jones, F'72, who had very graciously assisted Tom financially with undergraduate tuition at UW-Madison, penned an admissions-winning letter of recommendation for Tom's Marquette application. This June, Tom is spending 10 days in Antwerp, Belgium and Munich with his Marquette class visiting companies and government officials. He enjoys the quantitative decision-making class and the semester-long project on regression analysis. Tom manages large institutional relationships at Wells Capital Management, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin. We asked him why he did not choose UW-Madison for his MBA, and he said it came down to the time spent in classes and driving. The Marquette program was more convenient and a few thousand less expensive. Tom can be reached at 414-803-2451 or tgalfano@wellschap.com.

Glenn "Rusty" George, C'82, reports that he changed jobs about a year ago. Still in the energy sector, he is now a partner in Bates White Economic Consulting, a firm of around 170 consultants headquartered in Washington, DC. Rusty continues to live in Haddonfield, NJ (near Philadelphia) with his wife, Lisa (a tenured economics professor at the City University of New York) and three boys, Teddy, Harry, and Tommy (ages 8, 6, and 3). Rusty remains active both in the Epsilon Association, Inc., and the National, where he chairs the selection committee for the Viele Scholarship.
ggeorge001@yahoo.com

Rich Glenn, I'49, advises: "I'm excited about the ongoing restoration at the Thorsen House in Berkeley. I wish I lived closer and could be on hand more often to see for myself! I continue to keep in touch in particular with John Fiddymont, I'43, and Clint Day, I'61." By the time this 'Flame' goes to press, Brother Glenn will have celebrated his 80th birthday. Congratulations (or derogatory gifts!) may be mailed to that



Andre Hollis, S'91 (L) & Wells Nevil, S'91

gentleman at 998 Gold Nugget Circle, Lincoln, CA, 95648.

This e-mailed update was provided by a truly global Serp: "Brothers, I hope all is well and it's been too long. **Andre Hollis, S'91**, here in Afghanistan doing some work for our country and Afghanistan as the Advisor to the Afghan Minister for Counternarcotics. While leaving a meeting in-country, whom do I run into but my little brother in the Phi, Wells Nevill, S'91. Wells and I hadn't seen each other since

1998...and here we are in Afghanistan! I'm sharing the attached photo just to show that FLT also translates into Dari! adh208@gmail.com

Early summer weather making you think athletic thoughts? You might enjoy this update from **Larry Ikard, H'94**: "I ran the Antarctica Marathon on Feb 28, 2011. Amazing event held in one of the few parts of Antarctica not permanently covered in snow called King George Island. Race weather was a mix of drizzle, high winds and fog. And the course was mud, mud and more mud with lots of hills, rocks, flooded areas and an occasional skua (a bird that eats penguins and attacks you, for it basically views you as a large penguin!). So the conditions were really rough but it was well worth the experience. Am also gearing up for the 2011 New York City Marathon and would love to meet up with any Sigs before and after doing the same – they can contact me at likard@gmail.com."



Larry Ikard, H'94

"In late May, I went to a Michigan Symphony Band concert with **Dave Pauls, M'65**, at Walt Disney Concert Hall in LA," writes **Fred Lynch, M'64**. "The new hall is impressive but the band was even more so! Dave suggested I inform you about my new book, just out in paperback from U. of California Press titled One Nation Under AARP: The Fight Over Medicare, Social Security, and America's Future. It's up on Amazon and I guess I'm supposed to do some blogging there. Stay tuned!" Congratulations and/or literary cri-

tiques may be sent to this Sig author at: Frederick.Lynch@ClaremontMcKenna.edu

We have this in-transit update from **Israel Maynard, V'94**: "I'm delayed at Burlington airport, on my way to China for the 13th time...and thought I'd catch-up on email. I was promoted to Director of Global Logistics for Burton Snowboards in the fall, which is keeping me busy. I have a 5 yr-old daughter (Ella) and 4 yr-old son (Teddy), both of whom keep me even busier. And I'm getting ready

Website Registration – Important Reminder

The Sig website is an important tool to help us...and help you ... stay connected with each other. As time progresses, we plan to use the website for more and more Sig communications. We already use it for major Sig event announcements and registration. The site has contact information for each chapter and archives of the *Flame*. The Viele scholarship application is also available on the website for actives and grad students. As printing and mailing costs continue their rise, we also plan to offer an e-copy of the *Flame* for those interested in receiving it that way.

But – shazam! – Sigs need to register on the site in order for us to know how to reach you with these communications. (And don't worry about being inundated;

our communications tend to cluster around big events like Convention and March 4th). Registration is also important if Sigs want to get in touch with each other. The more Brothers who register, the more useful the network becomes as Sigs try to link up across the miles and years.

For those who haven't yet visited, a promise: the registration process is easy. Just go to www.SigmaPhi.org and click on the 'register' button. All you'll need to verify your identity as a member of the Thrice Illustrious is your name, chapter and initiation year.

If you have already registered in the past, thanks! Please log in again to scroll through your profile information and make sure everything is up to date.



to start my annual review of the Viele applications at the Burlington Alpha. Life is moving swiftly, for sure.”
israelmaynard@gmail.com

Do you crave that side of the Thrice Illustrious related to 'all things secret'? In that case, you might enjoy this news from **Mark Rothenberg, L'86: "Jack Romaine, L'90**, has taken the lead on trying to lead the Lehigh chapter back to some prominence and recognition. There is an interested pool of alumni and we're hopeful to find a spark to get behind. We have had a mini-reunion of sorts every other year at the Lehigh/Lafayette game with dinner afterwards. Logistics are of course tougher without a house but I'm glad to still see the Bethlehem Alpha continues to draw attendance and generate emotion. Perhaps also worth mentioning is that we have been carrying the Alpha of PA 'clave artifacts in paid storage for many years and might look to move them if UNC chapter wanted some or if we were lucky enough to get rebirth at Lehigh.”
rothy7@yahoo.com

Pundits tell us that “everything old is new again.” That suits **Lloyd Stamy, S'70**, just fine. That distinguished banker, you see, has unexpectedly become an icon for his daughter's friends! It happens as a result of rock 'n roll music Lloyd and friends were mak-

ing *waaaaay* back in 1969 under the name of Nobody's Children. Quite by accident, Lloyd was approached by some folks from NYC-based Naked Voice Records, which was then considering the launch of a vintage rock label/imprint. Eventually, his band was chosen to launch their Cavern Record site, and that 42-year old recording is now being marketed worldwide by a variety of electronic peddlers, including Amazon and iTunes.” Want to take a hit of this particular stellar musical nostalgia? Consult Cavern's website – <http://www.cavernrecords.us/> – for a taste and for a look at Lloyd's once-long locks! stamy@csnmckee.com

Fred Tucker, S'93, is betrothed! And some might say that the relationship is “all animal.” He married Dr. Corey Ann Peckins, and both of the newlyweds work in veterinary medicine as emergency clinicians. Nuptials took place at Crane Cottage on Jekyll Island, GA. David Burden, S'93, was in attendance ... and offers enthusiastic, Sigly approval. Fred encourages marital tips to be sent to this e-mail address: Fctiv@ix.netcom.com

We have this update from **Russ Vance, M'50**: “I always read News of Interest items in each *Flame*. Always looking for someone I know or who might be in my neck of the woods ... I'm being treated for a precancerous skin condition

traced back to my unprotected time in the Florida sun back during the '30s, '40s and '50s before we knew about sun screen. You younger guys & gals out there – especially blue eyed blonds – **BE CAREFUL IN THAT SUN!** On a lighter note, I plan on playing softball again this year with an “over 55” group once a week. I'll turn 80 in July and am by far the oldest, but I am one of the three pitchers!! I still hit regularly – just not as far – and have trouble running at any great speed, but I sure enjoy it! Finally, most days I'm a stock trader (not day trader) and would love to compare ideas with other Sigs who do regular market trading.” Got high stakes suggestions? E-mail Russ at russbow98@yahoo.com

Jack Williamson, V'61, became a grandfather of two robust young boys in early May. At the same time and for the same reason, his younger brother, **Chris Williamson, V'79**, became a great uncle. To further the family magic, both of those gentlemen became great uncles to another young man in April. That makes the advent of three new young Williamson boys in the past quarter. In the Williamson family, hopes runs high that one or more of these Williamsons will follow in fine family fraternal footsteps ... and become Sigs! Congrats may be funneled to both distinguished Sigs through chris@westwicktogether.net

Never Forget These Brothers



Matthew D. Adler, M'91 18 Feb 11
 Lawrence J. Brewer, L'57
 Allan R. Brown, G'50 5 Nov 10
 John K. Buckham, I'42 20 Feb 11
 William S. Covington Jr., C'48
 Joseph A. Eagan Jr., H'69
 Richard M. Evans, V'41
 William Everdell III, W'34 3 Sept 10
 Hugh C. Ferguson, G'49
 Albert H. Gay, F'51 1951 7 Jan 11
 Edward Gelsthorpe II, H'39 . . 12 Sept 09
 Bradley W. Hall, V'79 22 June 11
 Samuel Hazard, W'42 15 Sept 10

John A. Holmes, S'60
 William H. Hudson, W'47 5 Sept 10
 Klaus W. Hueper, S'54 1 Oct 02
 James Humphreys Jr., W'46 . . . 25 Oct 10
 J. Richard Kendrick, M'35
 A. Richard Knop, F'47 19 Oct 09
 F. Warren Lawrence, I'39
 Richard M. Leidigh, M'57
 Jonathan Davis Marshall, V'63 . . 9 Dec 10
 Robert Baldrige McKinley Jr. . 1 Sept 10
 Matthew A. Nozzolio, C'73
 Chester B. Opdyke, G'40

John T. Parker, H'46 14 Aug 10
 Lewis B. Peters Jr., H'47
 Robert A. Reid, M'36 9 Sept 09
 Michael D. Resnick, F'80 2 Feb 11
 Ralph Norwood Riggs III, C'02
 John B. Root, H'41
 Chauncey Rowan, H'47 23 Nov 08
 Albert W. Sanborn, U'42
 Frederick C. Smith, C'35
 Everett J. Smith, W'48 8 Sept 10
 Gilbert H. Stannard MD, F'41 . . 19 Jun 10
 Russell D. Widmer, L'59 23 Apr 10
 Frank L. Zagelmeyer III, M'47 . . 5 Jun 11

Sigma Phi FLAME

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
POST OFFICE BOX 4633
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27515-4633
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Please check the name and address below and notify us of any corrections. And send us your "News of Interest" for the next edition of the Flame.

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 4416
Columbus, Ohio

Nominations Open for Distinguished Sig and David Brown Awards

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

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

Worthy candidates for selection are graduate brothers who have distinguished themselves by achieving national or international prominence, providing broad public service to others in society, and/or rendering outstanding service to the Society or to the fraternity system. Over the years, the award has been conferred to Charlie Boswell II, G'47, Chet Eaton, V'30, Hastings Keith, V'34, Art Nielsen, Jr., F'38, Larry Perkins, F'25, Barney Rocca, I'34, and Chet Sawtelle, U'29.

The David S. Brown Distinguished Sigma Phi Service Award, named for longtime Sig stalwart David. Brown, S'70,



was instituted in 1999 to recognize Sig Brothers who have demonstrated their enduring love for our Society through their boundless energy and contributions to its brotherhood and well-being. Award recipients have included Ted Bosley, I'73, Wally Gates, V'50, Calhoun L.H. Howard, S'54, Mike Imirie, M'69, Rex Jones, F'72, George Mercer, M'68, Sam Moore, F'70, Steve Moore, V'41, Jim Jenkins, S'58, and Doug Tudhope, V'47.

Nominations are due by July 1 and welcome sooner. Any individual or group may make them, with or without the knowledge of the nominee.

There is no prescribed format for submitting a nomination other than providing a comprehensive description of the candidate's contributions, ideally in publishable form. Nominations will remain confidential, revealed only to those brothers who are directly involved in the selection process.

Nominations are being accepted by Dan Neumann F'71, the Society's Awards Co-chairman, who may also be contacted concerning additional details at dca120@sbcglobal.net or 120 Campbell Road, Trumbull, Connecticut 06611.

Huh? What's this?

You are correct to note that this auspicious-looking fraternal pin is not of the Thrice Illustrious.

Instead, it's a late 19th century jewelry piece belonging to the Benevolent & Fraternal Knights of the Maccabees organization, spied recently in an eBay listing.

Even though it's not a Sig item, this vintage item is intended to remind readers of the legitimate pride that fraternity members of all types have in their organizations. Our Society wants its members to dignify the memberships they earn by owning Sig badges. These days, Sig badges are available exclusively in 14k gold and cost \$250, engraving included. Specific ordering information is available online at www.sigmaphi.org.

