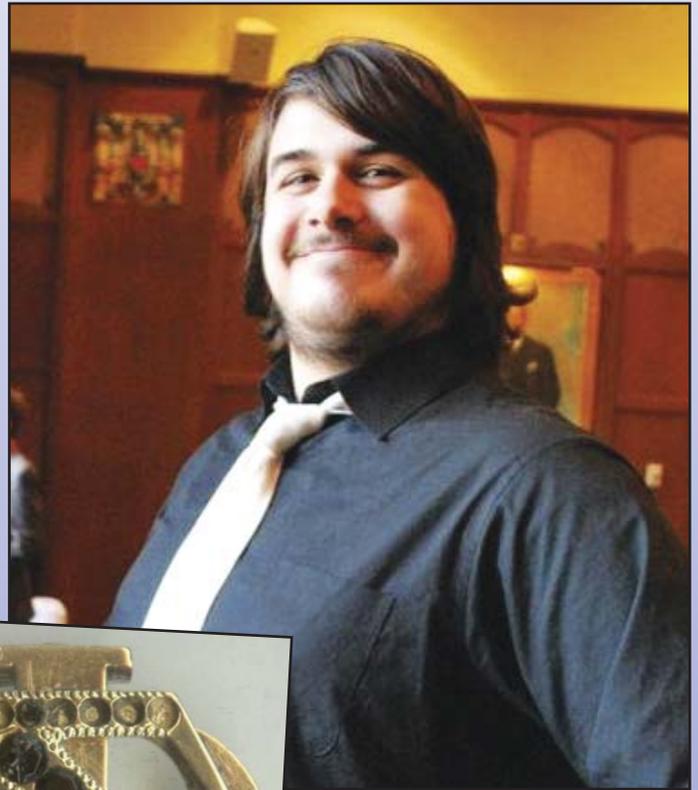


Sigma Phi FLAME

NUMBER 119 • JULY 2012

One Badge ...



*... Unites
Us All*



Photos from top left: 1) Jacob Morse, T'11, 2) Jeremy Darby, M'08, 3) Hamilton Sigs at Clinton reunion, June 1-3

The Chairman's Message:

'Help Wanted'

by Jim Cole, S'87 jamesvcolei@gmail.com

When I was elected Chairman, I thought that I would have to make a lot of decisions about the direction and priorities of the Society. I thought that it would require a great deal of communication and coordination with the Standing & Advisory Committee delegates and with the active and alumni chapter officers and brothers. I was right, but it turns out that I was thinking small. In fact, the job requirements are much more comprehensive.

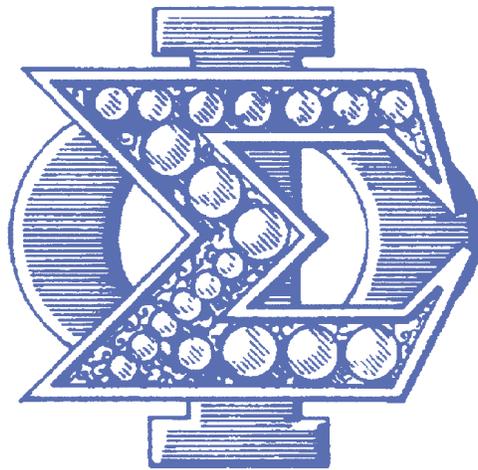
Luckily, I find happiness in talking with Sigma Phi brothers and generally revel in each Sig's company. The common denominators of Friendship, Love, and Truth make each call, meeting, or event a potential occasion for sincere, heart-to-heart and even life-changing conversations. The Society's ideals also make possible the hilarious ribbing found only in the banter of true friends – those who know our faults but love us, anyway. I've found that the relationship factor is the easy part of being Chairman. After all, it's a joyful continuation of my twenty-five year membership.

Serving as the Chair also requires a character trait at which I am little practiced: humility. Medieval theologian Erasmus of Rotterdam observed that "Humility is truth." The truth is that the everyday administrative tasks of the Society put great demands on our officers and volunteers. Even more so, good ideas to improve the national Society's services to Sigma Phi actives, alumni, and chapters often involve a tremendous amount of work by those very same individuals. I am the first to admit that I enthusiastically jump on a Sig task, only to later realize that my Sig spirit is willing but my work and family calendars are packed. Our only other alternative is to hire individuals to perform these tasks. Given the Society's current finances, that is sometimes necessary ... but never attractive.

This situation is teaching me that I must have the humility to ask for help when I need it. The truth is that I need

your help now. More to the point, Sigma Phi needs your help now.

Regardless of our balance sheet, the most valuable asset of Sigma Phi is its members. The brain and man power within our brotherhood is impressive. Yet, only a minuscule portion of that collective professional energy is ever utilized by the Society. My idea is to identify a number of individuals in each of the categories below and to request that each brother help with a discrete task or project. This should increase the chance of a task actually being timely and successfully accomplished: the two-part bane of every volunteer organization. It will



also decrease the burden placed on any one brother who is already generous with his time. The goal is to identify and ask for help with a project that will have a beginning, middle, and end so that a volunteer need not fear "being roped into" indentured servitude of an indefinite duration!

There are a number of initiatives and everyday tasks with which we need help. The Society currently does not receive any royalties from others who use its intellectual property, including the Sigma Phi Educational Foundation ("SPEF"). That needs to change since tax deductible contributions to SPEF decrease contributions that would otherwise go to the Society and are restricted in their use by tax laws. In



Jim Cole, S'87

order to increase the sale of Sigma Phi paraphernalia, the styling and variety of Sigma Phi merchandise could be updated. As a matter of respect for our brothers who have passed, pride in our Society and the ability to increase the wearing of the badge, an eBay "badge rescue" effort could be instituted. Our chapters – today's and tomorrow's – are in need of basic corporate legal assistance. Insurance issues continue to be a central concern for all fraternal organizations. In a more complete approach to education regarding drugs and alcohol, I am also hoping that we can establish an education and support network for those actives and alumni concerned about or dealing with addictions. Finally, I would like to explore the possibility of holding local alumni events in major cities, perhaps coordinated with or in addition to gatherings that include invitations to incoming freshmen and their parents. As you can see, this is an ambitious list of potential new directions. Your willingness to volunteer your time, make monetary contributions or – hopefully – both will determine whether the Society merely manages basic administrative tasks or, instead, is able to attempt some quantum, value-added enhancements.

All offers to help at the national level are much needed and appreciated. The most important characteristic is willingness. However, the Society is currently and *Continued on page 12*

March 4 in Berkeley:

'Oh what tales from the banquet she brought them ...'

by Bill Buhles, I'64 wbuhles@msn.com

In September, it will have been 100 years since the first swing at the Alpha of California. So the recent March 4th banquet held on March 3rd at the Sig house in Berkeley was really a double celebration. Sigs from as far away as Washington State gathered in our teakwood towers. As more men arrived, I was struck with an awful thought: this brother was going to be the oldest one there! There were three other Sigs from the '60s; Erik Johnson, I'67, Chris Zwingle I'68 and Dave Pauls M'65 (who now lives in the San Francisco Bay Area) helped us to make the '60s classes at least respectably represented.

But this brother didn't go just to see old friends, although I certainly wish I had seen more of them. I also went because I am growing older. How many more times will I enjoy the magic of having a conclave in that wonderful chapter? Known to the world as the Thorsen House but known to us as Sigma Phi Place, that special structure at 2307 Piedmont was radiant and pristine that night. Although those responsible for the upkeep of the house are modest about what has been accomplished, much careful renovation is obvious in the physical structure. Significant and excellent rebuilding has been done throughout, most recently on the back fence and the upper walkway to the garage. Many accolades – snaps all around! – are due to those who have worked so hard on these important physical plant endeavors.



"The jolly Sigs are stirring"

A brief business meeting run by Alumni Board president Moses Cesario, I'89, included election of board members. (Blessedly, there were no acceptance speeches!) We then repaired to volumes of golden amber fluid, dinner in the house's large living room, and thereafter to breathe green smoke.

What I love about the Alpha is the brotherhood and the setting. It came together for me in 1964 and it's still there. I was only 17 years old when I pledged the Sigma Phi. Those were formative years – all of us were still maturing and learning how to live life. I've grown and changed since then but can look back and see how becoming a Sig was a very good decision. Oh, there were alumni years when I only traveled to the house for pre-game lunch on football days. But there has always been a magic. Magic in the cadence of drums and the slow rendition of Sigs from High Olympus Came, the verse of swing, firmly held secrets and Sig songs.

Sig, sig, sig the earth is singing ... Ever notice that when you try to sing a Sig song in the shower you sort of forget the words, but singing it at the House among 80 brothers the words flow out? That's the way it works for this brother. This is not to say I always sing Sig songs in the shower, but I did after March 3. Couldn't get them out of my head. Our songs are an important part of the spell.

After the magic circle, some of us lingered downstairs to soak up the anniversary atmosphere. Dave Munroe I'86, the house historian (and Society General Secretary!) and I found an old listing of swing rosters among ancient record books. Excitedly, we noticed that one dated all the way back to 1912 and contained, in beautiful script, the first California class of Sigs, including Earl Warren. Wow! Over the century, many men have embraced and enjoyed the same magic which seemed so manifest that night.

'Tis a holy mystic spell ... This is the crux of it. It's a spell. Sigma Phi gets



A "Blaufarbian" March 4 toast

you under a spell (if you're lucky) and it changes how you look at friendship ... and brotherly love ... and tradition. Older Sigs who go back do so because they cherish that spell and the part it plays in our lives. We're fortunate indeed if we do, and are grateful to be part of it. This brother sees it as adding rich color to his life. I recommend this with all my heart. Even if you're in your 60's or 70's, go back occasionally to your alma mater and take in the magic.

Goodnight, goodnight is a lonely sound, and brings a sigh from the heart, the heart ... Eventually, the evening waned and this brother said goodbye. Before I did, I took one last, long, lingering look at the mystical surroundings of the Sigma Phi Place: the teak halls; the Tiffany glass and the bricks-and-mortar perfection rendered so long ago by Greene and Greene. Importantly, I could see beyond the physical splendor. In that reflective moment, I could also see the history of 100 years of fraternity among a select and fortunate group of men. At the Alpha of California, may it ever be thus. Never forget the brothers.

It won't be long before the Society turns 200: March of 2027, if my pledge lessons serve me well. An institution – any institution – has to be robust and valued to enjoy such longevity.

I hope I'm around to celebrate it ... with you.

Campaign for the Alpha: Our Path to 2027

by Eric Sharfstein, U'93 connect_eric@hotmail.com

On the Fourth of March 1827, four Union College men held an initiation ceremony in a dark room on the fourth floor of a building then called North College. At that moment more than 185 years ago, our beloved Sigma Phi was born. It was unprecedented. It was unassuming. And it carried no guarantees of perpetuity. A year later, the founders would celebrate with a banquet and toasts.

At the Fourth of March banquet at Union earlier this year, over toasts which I suspect were very similar, the Alpha of New York once again celebrated this Society. Then, turning to our hopes for the next 185 years, the Alpha of New York launched its three-year capital campaign.

Due to changes made by the College over many years, we face an ongoing struggle to preserve our Society's founding chapter. It is our hope that The Campaign for the Alpha: Our Path to 2027 will help us make long-term capital improvements to our home at 10 Union Avenue and build our endowment so the Alpha of New York can continue to thrive through our Society's 2027 bicentennial and beyond.

This article will share information about what we have done and what we plan to do. Moreover, we urge your participation. 10 Union Avenue is a place of our own, separate from the College. It is a Pepperbox for the 21st Century. And it is critical to preserving what we have had for 185 years and providing a secure future for the Alpha of Alphas for years to come. We are gratified that our campaign committee already includes more than 45 Brothers, from U'63 through U'10. It is notable that every initiation year from U'89 through U'10 is represented by at least one Brother. Why does 10 Union Avenue matter so much?

Without 10 Union Avenue, there can be no Alpha of New York as we have known it. First and foremost, 10 Union Avenue is the home of our Sanctum Sanctorum, the place where all of our

rituals, including Initiations, Specials and Conclaves take place. These events simply cannot take place at our College home in Davidson South – a space controlled and patrolled by the College. Second, it is a home for three undergraduate Brothers each year. Third, it is a place for private social gatherings. 10 Union Avenue serves a valuable purpose for rush, pledging, homecoming, the Fourth of March and other events. Importantly, it is also a home for Wandering Birds from the Alpha and other chapters. Without 10 Union Avenue, recruitment of new Brothers and engagement with alumni would be far more difficult. Finally, it's fair to view the physical structure of this Sigma Phi Place as the Society's modern day cradle: a 'Pepperbox' for all time and all Sigs. Specifics:

Over the next three years, we hope to raise \$150,000. We want to meet our goal by June 30, 2015. We hope to address the following needs:

- \$25,000 - Whole roof replacement
- \$12,000 - Second floor bathroom restoration
- \$8,000 - Drywall repair from water damage on the first floor
- \$8,000 - Chimney repair
- \$5,000 - Kitchen rehabilitation
- \$3,000 - Doors, windows, and locks replacement to provide greater security
- \$3,000 - Backyard fence replacement
- \$1,000 - Basement stairs replacement
- \$85,000 - Build endowment fund to prepare for future long-term capital needs.

We are extremely pleased to report that we have already received two very generous leadership pledges. Myles Kellam, U'94 has pledged \$15,000. Bill Copeland, U'74 has pledged \$10,000.



10 U: "the Alpha of Alphas"

We are also very pleased to report these very generous pledges: \$3,000 - D. Marchionne U'90; \$1,500 - Antonio Viva U'92; \$1,000 - Allen Miller U'64, Len Kagan U'66, Peter Smith U'67, Steve Shultz U'68, Nathan Schroeder U'96, Ridgely Harrison U'00, Pat Mahoney U'00, Jack Honor U'07, Mike Fitzpatrick U'07.

Campaign contribution categories include: Keepers of the Flame Up to \$299; Witherspoon Society \$300 - \$599; Bowie Brothers Society \$600 - \$999; Cromwell Society \$1,000 - \$2,999; 1827 Society \$3,000 - \$4,999; The Magic Circle \$5,000 and up

To be sure, it is our hope that more Brothers can make leadership pledges above these prescribed categories.

All Brothers contributing at or above \$300 will be recognized by contribution category on a plaque that will be mounted in 10 Union Avenue. In the alternative, a contributor can choose to honor or memorialize another Brother.

How to contribute: via PayPal: <http://www.unionsigmaphi.webs.com> via check: Checks should be made payable to Sigma Phi Society and mailed to Alpha of New York Alumni Treasurer Adam Pischel U'00. (Sigma Phi Society, c/o Adam Pischel, 440 West Broadway *Continued on page 12*

Lehigh Sigs Are Stirring!

by Jack Romaine, L'90 jack.romaine@element-id.com

The prospect of a Lehigh recolonization has been building from the hushed whisper of distant opportunity to the marching drumbeat of Sigs determined to reassert our presence on South Mountain in Bethlehem, PA. If you are not already receiving email updates about our progress and what you can do to help, visit www.sigmaphilehigh.org, register, and please get involved.

All the talk and preparation has turned to action as Lehigh sent out notices in June officially requesting applications from fraternities to apply for a single, non-residential spot at the University. Although the school favors organizations with a history at Lehigh, Sigma Phi might be competing with as many as 15 other houses that are no longer active. The applications are due at a date to be determined in early August and a decision will be made shortly thereafter.

The application process is daunting and there are certainly no guarantees. In addition to many criteria covered in Sigma Phi's Renaissance Program, interested fraternities will be evaluated on their ability to add value to Lehigh and to function as a non-residential chapter. Another important factor is available resources. In the University's eyes, this includes the strength and support of the national organization, the number of alumni in the Lehigh Valley area, and a list of and contact information for committed alumni.

By the time you read this, we will have made significant progress. Mark Rothenberg, L'86, Joe Rosati, L'83 and Hal Fittipaldi, L'66 worked hard to get all the paperwork for the Sigma Phi Society at Lehigh University Alumni Corporation back in order. Greg Sawka, L'84 established a list of "class captains" who will lead a phone campaign. John Pallone, L'83, Rob Foglia, L'93, and Tom Eng, L'92 created a new website for the Alpha of PA at www.sigmaphilehigh.org as well as a new Facebook page. Please be sure to visit the website to update your contact information and visit "Sigma Phi



circa 1984 Bethlehem banquet

News" to see the latest progress.

We established a Lehigh Recolonization Committee chaired by yours truly back in early May. This was quickly followed by a request to the National on May 15 for official support, which was enthusiastically granted by Chairman Vinnie Cole, S'87 on behalf of the Executive Committee. Renaissance Director Scott McCrae, V'82 has pledged his active support. Scott was instrumental in working with UNC during our expansion in North Carolina and also brings significant knowledge and experience in working with Phired Up! Should we get a green light, using Phired Up! to help with recruiting will be a necessity to meet the timeline, and my meetings with the Lehigh Greek Affairs Office indicate that it will be very well received.

A lot has been done in a short time, but there is still much to do. This re-establishment effort needs both your time and your financial support. The Alumni Corporation is set up to take donations (these are unfortunately not tax deductible) through PayPal or credit card at www.sigmaphilehigh.org. You can also mail checks to Sigma Phi Society at Lehigh University Alumni Corporation 535 Wood Street, Suite 798, Bethlehem, PA 18016-9998. We need volunteers in the Lehigh Valley area to be on the dedicated alumni list we submit to Lehigh. We also need help putting the finishing touches on the application we submit in August. Visit the website to sign up and participate.

These are exciting times for the Sigma Phi and especially for alumni of the Alpha of PA! "All work and no play make Jack a dull boy" they say – so we also need to plan a little fun to go with all this work. We are organizing a Sigma Phi gathering in NYC in mid-August. Brothers from all chapters are invited to join us in celebrating the recolonization efforts at Lehigh. Stay tuned to www.sigmaphilehigh.org for details on the exact date, time and location of this event. I look forward to seeing you there!



yesteryear Sigma Phi Place on Sayre Hill

View from the Tar Heel Chapter

by Jacob Morse, T'11 HOH jmmdem@yahoo.com

The Alpha of North Carolina is leaving the nest, one wing at a time. Since the invigorating swing of seventeen (myself included) in the spring of 2011, we've crossed many bridges that seemed so far away and tough to approach. Having no precedent to go on, blending the 185-year old traditions of our Society with our fledgling chapter's desires and challenges, we've seen what true devotion and passion can accomplish.

In the fall of 2012, we will have 31 active brothers among the ranks of the Alpha. Those will consist of three different pledge classes: the aforementioned seventeen, a fall 2011 class of seven and a spring 2012 class of eight. Among our 31, we have four of the six populated continents represented. We have brothers from a wide spectrum of ethnic, religious, and academic backgrounds. In fact, I could travel to six countries across the world and find a brother from the Alpha of NC. I would argue that we are the most diverse group of men to have graced the UNC campus for quite some time.

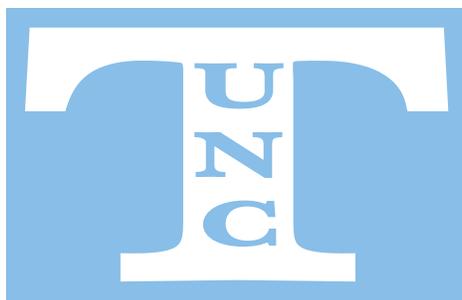
Our recruitment style is one which finds us approaching candidates for who they have demonstrated themselves to be. Oftentimes, prospective Sigs are identified among brothers' clubs, organizations, and circles at UNC after a brother has seen some of the qualities that we hold most dear: campus involvement and scholarship. So far, that style of recruitment has served us well. We now have the task to make sure that we recruit among the many different years at Carolina, with the class of 2016 entering in the fall.

'Unique' is a very fitting adjective for the Alpha. On one level, we're currently the newest chapter to join the Inter-fraternity Council at UNC. At the same time, we represent the oldest national fraternity in continuous existence at the oldest public institution of higher education. Unique, indeed! Having recruited among our own class and the class below us, there will be no brothers higher than the junior class entering the 2012-13 academic year. As



Tar Heel bonds (Jacob Morse is at far left)

you'd expect with a new group, we have no permanent . Instead, we come from all areas of – on and off campus. Our meetings have taken place in classrooms, the student union, and restaurants alike. Even our alumni core consists almost entirely of brothers who once matriculated to different universities during their active years. It is safe to say that our experience, while rich, is very different from the one



you'd expect from a joining an established fraternity. Like Sigs everywhere, we recognize and enjoy all of the greatest things one desires from a fraternity – Friendship, Love, and Truth – just in a different and less-traditional sphere than most.

I, for one, never knew what I was jumping into when I decided to pledge this Society. I knew some of the guys who had decided to pledge with me, and I understood that even those I didn't know had impressive reputations. I had no preconceived notions of what

to expect from Greek life, much less the almost re-founding of a chapter. Regardless, I rolled the dice. What a safe bet it turned out to be! To this day, I could not be more proud of the people I've come to call 'brother.' Our bonds are something special. I would argue that – in fellowship and in intensity – they are unique at our university and beyond.

Looking forward, I have the brightest vision of what the Tar Heel Alpha can do and where she can go. Having recently been elected Head-of-House for our chapter, I hope to inspire others with vision to produce results beyond what we ever thought possible. With the group of men we have, I have no doubts about the possibilities.

Next year, a group of nearly fifteen brothers will be living together in a brand new, rented house in Chapel Hill. While this is by no means the attainment of our permanent housing goal, it will surely foster the "live-in" experience so many of us desire. We look forward to hosting alumni events prior to football games, service events to touch the community and the campus alike, and all together fun experiences for our brothers to share in. I hope this piece reaches you in good health and spirits, and – from me to you – *Esto!*

“The National”

Sigma Phi’s 3-Legged Organization Stool

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

The National.” As actives, we hear the phrase often. We loosely understand it to be our governing body, charged with business functions and overall governance. As alumni, we expect to hear from Sigma Phi after our campus days have ended, but we’re not altogether certain who sends us those letters and publications.

With summer being upon us, now seems like an ideal time to provide a primer of Sigma Phi’s national structure. The purpose of this feature, for actives and alumni alike, is to provide a brief and cogent look at the 3-legged organizational stool on which this Society operates.

We’re probably all familiar with how each chapter of Sigma Phi generally has two components, an active chapter comprised of undergraduates at the host institution and an alumni corporation made up of all the graduates of that institution who belonged to Sigma Phi as undergraduates. It’s really these two components that keep Sigma Phi alive as a national fraternity – working together at each host campus to make sure the chapter has an adequate membership, follows the precepts of our Society and remains financially viable.

To those of our Society who haven’t had the opportunity to be actively involved in our national affairs, especially undergraduates and younger alumni, it’s probably not well known how our national organization is structured. There are basically three main components: a. Sigma Phi Society, Inc., b. Viele Scholarship Trust, and c. the Sigma Phi Educational Foundation. In the paragraphs that follow, we’ll describe each one.

Sigma Phi Society, Inc. is a 501(c)(7) not-for-profit fraternal organization, which most of us tend to refer to as “The National.” In the eyes of the IRS, donations to Sigma Phi Society, Inc. are not subject to federal and state income taxes. As a 501(c)(7), donations are NOT allowable by the

IRS as charitable contributions by the donors. The organization is assessed federal income taxes, however, on what is called “unrelated income.” Any earnings that we accrue by way of interest and dividends on our investments are treated as “unrelated income,” and are included in our annual tax return and subject to income tax. The National is governed by the Standing and Advisory Committee (S&A), which functions as a sort of board of directors. The two adjectives describing that leadership group are not accidental. The S&A is ‘standing’ in that it exists perpetually ... and ‘advisory’ in that it advises the chapters rather than dictating to them.

The S&A has two representatives from each Chapter of Sigma Phi, a Delegate and an Alternative. An Executive Committee (Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) is elected by the annual General Convention and performs day-to-day business and leadership functions of The National. An important position has been recently added to The National, the Renaissance Director, charged with carrying out the various initiatives of that forward-thinking program.

The Viele Scholarship Trust is a 501(c)(3) trust established to provide scholarships to members of Sigma Phi who are attending school. The Viele is also a not-for-profit organization but – as a 501(c)(3) organization – contributions are generally allowable by the IRS as charitable contributions by the donors. This designation means that gifts are generally allowable by the IRS as charitable contributions by the donors. In addition to providing annual scholarships, the Viele Trust also pays for some of the expenses of undergraduate Sigs attending the Leadership Workshops at the Annual Convention. In existence since 1978, the Viele Trust is managed by two Sigma Phi alumni appointed by the S&A. Six Sig alums serve on the Selection Committee. They spend about 40 hours annually reviewing the many scholarship applications, first



individually and then as a decision-making group.

The Sigma Phi Educational Foundation is also a 501(c)(3) organization, and therefore contributions are not taxable as income and are also allowable by the IRS as charitable contributions by the donors. Commonly referred to as “SPEF,” it’s been designed and established to meet the educational needs of Sigma Phi since 1985. Day-to-day business and leadership functions are managed by four Sig alumni (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer). An SPEF trustee group performs as the board of directors; members are usually the presidents of local alumni corporations or their designees.

The business of all 3 of these organizations is accomplished throughout the year via in-person meetings (Convention, March 4th, etc.), teleconferences and email correspondence. It would be difficult to estimate all the hours devoted to managing these three organizations, but one can imagine it’s a large number. As any Brother who has served over the years can attest, it can be a worthwhile and rewarding experience to participate in any capacity. Plain and simply, such participation deepens the Sig experience.

Hopefully, this has shed a little light on how Sigma Phi is structured and how it operates at the National level.

“The National.”
Whew! Who knew?

A Journeyman's Perspective

by Jesse Wetzel, S'04 wetzel.jc@gmail.com

"You decide your own level of involvement."

(Brad Pitt to Edward Norton in Fight Club, both, notably, playing the same character)

Someone wiser than myself determined that it is in good taste to begin writing with a quote. I've chosen this one from the movie 'Fight Club' because it accurately characterizes my story as a journeyman in the Sigma Phi. I'll begin the same way the movie began, with the narrator standing at what might be described as the precipice of his uncertain future.

I have very recently graduated – again: this time, from the graduate architecture program at the University of Michigan. This is a funny moment where I realize, looking back, that the phrase 'graduate student' is a bit of an oxymoron. Contradiction notwithstanding, it is also quite an accurate description of my education as a brother of Sigma Phi. Mentorship is really the lens through which I am best able to tell my story, from my early days as an unwitting pledge ... to my more recent activities guiding and encouraging young Sigs who find themselves in similarly unsure positions. Mentorship situations have really helped me understand why I am where I am today both as a brother and as a person.

My fledgling days as a brother at the Alpha of Virginia in Charlottesville were characterized by uncertainty. I had no idea what twists and turns my life would take. Where will I be in five years? What will I become? In my last two undergrad years, I was certain that the number of hours I spent at my desk in studio would determine the answers. As a result of my lopsided academic priority, I earned the dubious distinction of being dubbed 'ghost brother' by my Sig contemporaries. Upon graduation from UVA, however, I would get a very pleasant hip check on my way out of the door: the first of many suggesting that my future as a designer might have just as much to do with Sigma Phi as my drafting tools.

Much to my surprise, the destination of my new life and job was Chapel Hill, North Carolina – the site of the newest Sig chapter. Was this serendipity

an omen that my future and The Society might be much more entwined than my early Sig days suggested? Such geography presented me with an opportunity to engage what I thought I had taken for granted and missed much of while toiling in studio (see the opening quote). It was a pure stroke of luck. Thomas Jefferson admonishes, however, that luck is merely the moment when preparation meets opportunity. I was determined that this opportunity that would not pass me by. Moving forward, I would play a more active Sig role!

While my time at the Alpha of Virginia taught me what it meant to be a brother, I had to take a deep breath and recalibrate in order to help recruit an intrepid group of potential founding brothers at the University of North Carolina. Working with a small but critical mass there, I found myself trying to convey what things like balance, emotional and psychological investment, and commitment meant to a group of 18-somethings. I mentored energetically ... but suspect I may have learned as much from the four young "T's" as they did from me. The experience of working with them and helping them try to figure out which end was up – both inside and outside of the Society – made me realize they were helping me understand what my older brothers in Charlottesville had been trying to teach. I'd like to share here my understanding of some of those pearls of wisdom: a) the ability to know (and work) without seeing; b) the knowledge that 'those who do the work make the decisions'; and c) the importance of protecting your energy.

Even as I write this piece, these truths are becoming ever more clear to me – ever more real – as I project out into the future. I fully expect to learn more such lessons through my continued engagement with Sigma Phi. I now believe that the act of passing such teachings along causes us – maybe for the first time! – to understand what



Jesse Wetzel, S'04

those grayhairs were waxing poetic about in our earliest Sig days. While none of the ideas is original, I hope that my being involved in three different chapters might help make these lessons more explicit, such that younger Sig generations can figure things out faster than we did.

The first story I'll share involves the founders of the Alpha of North Carolina, its Alumni Board Members and the National supporters as an example of "the ability to know and work without seeing." There are times when we find it very easy to accomplish a goal because we can see it; we know what it looks like and what we are to do. On other occasions, we have to try to figure out how to work on something when we have no idea what it is we're working towards. Sure, we Tar Heel chapter supporters had a vision of a house full of Sigma Phi brothers in Chapel Hill, but we had no road map for getting there. It was the first time trying to found a chapter in 50+ years and we were doing it from scratch – a 100% grass roots movement. To be frank, it was extremely difficult. After several years of ups and downs, we decided to bolster our efforts by engaging a heavily researched recruiting agency. The result? We came through with a new group of 32 young men: a group very recently officially *Continued on page 9*

Perspective from page 8 recognized by the IFC of UNC. The events that took place in Chapel Hill between my graduation in 2006 and my departure for grad school in 2010 taught me that – given the right group of motivated people, committed to a cause – anything is possible. Ultimately, it is not the details which determine the success of the endeavor but energy which is positive and pointed in the right direction. The brothers of Sigma Phi – and specifically those at the Alpha of North Carolina – have made me believe that you don't need to see goal as long as you can work toward it. The Tar Heel chapter has far exceeded expectations through its own sheer force of will and our continuing support.

In a similar way, the group at Michigan has echoed the efforts of the UNC chapter who have determined what path their future lies on, proving that “Those who do the work make the decisions.” In the age of globalization, this doesn't seem to be true, but it really is the guy swinging the hammer who gets to decide where the nails go.

I committed to the Michigan's architecture graduate school in 2010. I flew out to Ann Arbor for the open house and was afterwards greeted at 907 Lincoln by some very bearded brothers who showed me around and set up a place for me to spend the weekend. What I found at Michigan's chapter was a very unique group which totally defied whatever labels one might want to assign. They were a group that very clearly found each other. Whether through an appreciation for certain genres of music or hobbies, the group was distinctly its own. I would find, over

time, that this mix was a product of seeking each other out and good old fashioned word of mouth. It was clear that the Michigan Sigs had a particular sensibility about who they were and who they wanted to be. The lesson here was that – if you want to continue to enjoy the company you find at the house as you get older – you have to stay involved and play a part as a brother who actively helps redefine the image of the house. This isn't rocket science but it is a valuable lesson. Apathy kills! This is an equally potent and obvious lesson when it comes to the lifeblood of our Society, but that is not an issue when brothers remain active as they grow older.

In this context, my proudest moment took place at the 2011 Convention at Geneva. During a formal but contentious election vote, the Michigan actives were the only ones to break with their alumni counterparts. At the point where they were certainly under pressure from those around them to vote one way or another, they voted their way, because it was their vote. Right or wrong, they dropped the hammer where they wanted it dropped. In fact, this has been the story of every Sig chapter I've been a part of. Each has had its own unique identity, but these identities have stemmed from the brothers believing strongly in personal engagement.

Finally, I'll offer some thoughts on “protecting your energy.” In life, there are people and things that give energy ... and take energy. We as people are no exception. It's critical for us to be mindful of where our energy goes every day. In my view, who we are is

based to a surprising degree on where we put our energy.

Sigma Phi Society is a rare exception to most energy laws I know. It seems no matter how much or how little I'm willing to put into Sigma Phi, I always get back more than I invest. My experience over the past 8+ years as a Sig journeyman supports this in spades. No matter how much you think you might be getting back from Sigma Phi, there is so much more in store for you! If you are willing to give just one weekend for a convention, one week for rush, three years as an active, it's impossible to tell when you would ever stop reaping the rewards. How are such rewards measured? Professional contacts, job leads, prospective school visits, seeing old friends you haven't seen in years, making new friends you will keep in touch with for many more; one weekend embedded in the rich stew of a Sigma Phi Convention (how's that for a visual?) ... So many ways. And any one of them could sustain the flame within for years to come! The four conventions I've been fortunate to attend have come directly as a result of being the Alumni Representative for the fledgling UNC chapter, an unsolicited opportunity – and a privilege – that I jumped on without delay. I can't urge my brothers too strongly to be willing to jump at Sig opportunities, wherever they are found.

So here I am at another one of those moments, standing at the precipice of another year at Michigan in a new program and I'm hearing the words echo in my head ... “You decide your own level of involvement.” It is as true in life as it is in Sigma Phi.

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.

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KUDOS & THANKS ...

... to the following Sigs for their articles, information or encouragement supporting this issue of the *Flame*: Bill Buhles, I'64, Rusty George, C'82, George Ketterer, F'65, Jacob Morse, T'11, David Pauls, M'65, Tom Roderick, M'49, Jack Romaine, L'90, Eric Sharfstein, U'93, Jesse Wetzel, S'03, and Ted Wynne, W'56.

Issue after issue, we solicit real Sig perspectives from real Sigs. Two great things happen with each written input from a Brother: enhanced *Flame* scope and improved *Flame* readability.

Please contact editor Mike Imirie, M'69 (mimirie@aol.com) to share your feedback, suggestions, photographs, and Sig stories. Flex your 'stakeholder' muscles, Brothers! Share your Best Sig Love in the form of viewpoints and updates from your life.

Sig Connections: The Ties That Bind

by Tom Roderick, M'49 roderick@gwi.net

My thoughts here are mainly about two aspects of our Sigma Phi Society: 1) how variable must be our individual experiences in being introduced to Sigma Phi; and 2) what it means to continue to enjoy Sig connections from our own times, and from other times and places.

Some 9,500 men have been initiated into Sigma Phi since its beginning by four men at Union College in 1827. Each had or has a different story to tell how he was introduced to the Society. Each has a different experience and life with the Society. Most, we hope, have been positive and lifelong.

When I got my first Sigma Phi Catalogue shortly after initiation in 1949, I couldn't put it down. Imagine, even we in the class of M'49 were included! I had to go to the earlier 1927 edition to read biographies of deceased brothers. More than just our names, those catalogues provided so much of the Society's history. There it was all laid out in those brief biographies of each brother, from the four founders forward. The Catalogue of 1977 brings us more up-to-date. The combination of Sig biographies and well-written chapter histories vividly reveals the Society in all its several dimensions.

Almost immediately, it was obvious to me there were many "Sig Families": that is, more than one family member becoming a Sig. There was, for example the Root Family of Hamilton, the Torrey Family of Vermont, the Starrett-Dinwiddie Families of Michigan and later California, the Nielsens of Wisconsin and countless others, eventually including fathers, sons, cousins, 2nd cousins and now 3rd cousins. The Bowie brothers, two of our four founders at Union, perhaps set the stage for "legacies," although I find no further Sigs in their family. I don't know if Sigma Phi was unusual in the number of legacies, but perusing the biographies of the Society's first 50 years reveals a high percentage.

So one can presume introductions

to Sigma Phi were often through relatives. But think of all the others who became Sigs for whom no obvious previous link existed. It would be worth another tome to address how each member came to know of Sigma Phi and how the association was confirmed. It disclose much about the strengths of our Society. What fun it would be to read!

My association with Sigma Phi began well before I was born. In fact, if it weren't for Sigma Phi, I wouldn't be ... I. Our family's introduction to Sigma Phi goes back to my father, George Roderick, M'17 and my mother's brother, Gaylord Huston, M'19, meeting at Sigma Phi Place in Ann Arbor.

Back in Central High School (Grand Rapids, MI) during World War I, Harold Fletcher, M'17, and my father, George Roderick, were good friends. A good friend of Fletcher arriving in Ann Arbor before Fletch was John D. (Jack) Hibbard, M'15. Jack had strong Sig heritage, being the grandson of Homer Nash Hibbard, V'47 (that's 1847!), an illustrious Vermont Sig. I presume Harold Fletcher saw Sigma Phi for the first time accompanying Jack Hibbard to the Ann Arbor Sig House.

A year later, in the fall of 1916, a train from Grand Rapids pulled to a stop in Ann Arbor, and 16 year old George Roderick stepped off. His handbag was grabbed by one of them, his trunk retrieved from the baggage car, and Jack and Harold walked him up the way to the Sig House at 426 North Ingalls. There seemed no apparent need for George to move from the house once he got off the train. Dad pledged and was initiated into Sigma Phi, the first pledge of his class. He told me there was already a "Red" in the house. So a senior brother said "We will call you 'Pinky.'" It befitted his ruddy complexion and red hair; the nickname stuck all through his life.

From Ludington in northern Michigan, my mother's mother, Effie M. Gaylord, was an early Ann Arbor



Tom Roderick, M'49

coed. Of a senior class of 9 in 1883, she was the first person from Mason County to graduate from the University (Bachelor of Philosophy, Education) and one of a few women students in Ann Arbor at the time.

When it came time for her son, Gaylord Huston, to attend college, it was natural that it be the University of Michigan. But why did he choose – or why was he chosen by – Sigma Phi? I conclude, although without evidence, that his mother had given him the names of the "good" fraternities during her time there, and Sigma Phi was on that list. I have a letter from Matt Towar, M'16, Head of the House when Gaylord (ultimately, M'19) was considering pledging. Addressed to Mrs. Huston in Ludington, it described the merits of Sigma Phi Society and why Gaylord – who was desired by the Brothers – would be well served to become a Sig. I suspect my grandmother requested that letter.

So I grew up in Grand Rapids with Sigma Phi in the background. The Fletchers were of Grand Rapids and Jack Hibbard and his family settled there. My parents *Continued on page 11*

Ties That Bind from page 10 were asked to chaperone Sig events and my father naturally received a yearly invitation to initiations with the cryptic initials "E.P.V." When asked, he told us that meant "eggs, potatoes and veal," the menu for the celebration dinner. I remember my mother saying, "Oh Pinky, tell us what it really means." We never were told.

It was no great surprise that I was interested in the Society when I rushed in the fall of 1948. As I arrived that first time, Frank Zagelmeier, M'47, was standing at the front door with his broad smile and open, confident hand. Lew Towler, M'47, with his quiet, friendly demeanor was very impressive. Very early on, I also met Bob Mersereau, M'48, who continued to be an important mentor to me until he graduated in 1951.

It was obvious from the beginning that this was a serious group of men, several of whom had returned from severe wartime service and were glad to be alive. They were focused and serious students. Fortunately, they and the others accepted me and a truly great bunch of wide-eyed freshmen, a sophomore and an upperclassman. And from the boys in the House, we learned and grew in the new home away from home, a completely new environment. With considerable help from Gray Conger (M'46), an Ann Arbor resident with broad fiscal experience, we ran our own affairs. We worked on the house and yard. We had parties, we played cards and we got into campus activities. We studied, we woke each other up, we went to classes, took care of Reilly, our Great Dane, and began lifelong, very strong friendships, many of which have endured and have been so important to me. I recall vividly after our weekly meetings, gathering on the porch behind the house, arm in arm, in a circle singing, "We know what the morrow may bring; some may no longer remain." At the time, those haunting words carried meaning which seemed so far off. Now, of course, that meaning is far clearer ... and far more relevant. "Good night, may we meet again." A thrilling Sig song, then and now.

While in Ann Arbor, I became very



Michigan's 'Red House on the Hill' (rear view), circa 1900

curious about the other chapters. Did they run things the way we did? Were they nicer fellows than we were? Did they entertain some of the same historical thoughts about Sigma Phi? An experience one summer afternoon provided insight. I was alone in the living room at Sigma Phi Place and a cab drove up. Out stepped a very elderly man from another Sig chapter. After sending the cab away, he introduced himself to me. He was passing through, just wanting to see the house and say hello to any Sigs present. I was the only one there at the moment and ushered him in. We sat together on the couch in front of the fireplace under the grand wooden-carved shield now adorning a library wall of today's Ann Arbor Sig House at 907 Lincoln. It will forever sadden me that I do not recall this old Sig's name or the chapter he came from (he was certainly initiated well before 1900), for meeting a Sig from another chapter was a great experience. I realized he was exploring an interest very much like mine. He had written a Sig song that he offered to sing for me. And he did. If someone were to sing that song again for me, I would absolutely know it, but I didn't find it in the Signet. A very touching experience.

In 1953, Cornell played Michigan in football, so Sherb Brown, M'50, Henry Crapo, M'51, and I decided to strike out East in Henry's family auto-

mobile to go to the game. It was our rather stupid scheme to manage the 500-mile drive by having one man driving, one man wide awake next to the driver, and one man taking his turn sleeping in the back seat, rotating every so many hours or miles. We did it, anyway.

Rather well after dinner we made a stop at Sigma Phi Place at Hamilton College. The Betas greeted us royally, offered us coffee with a little food and saw us off again. Arriving at Cornell in the morning, the surprised men greeted us warmly and showed us places we could sleep after the game. I am sure we did not tell them we were coming. My spot was a pad and blanket on the floor in a study. The house was totally crowded with men coming back to school for the weekend. I can remember seeing all those strange men shaving together in the bathroom that morning, thinking, "These are all Sigs. Imagine!"

Although I think Michigan lost the game, Henry, Sherb and I were well rewarded, fed very well and made to take away fresh impressions of another chapter's men, life and open generosity. I found the same during my post-graduate work. I joined Dick Arnesen, M'51, at Berkeley, California, and we often attended functions at the beautiful Sigma Phi Place. A very, very busy place with open hospitality to us. At an annual Sig *Continued on page 12*

Ties That Bind *Continued from page 11*
meeting there around 1954, I talked with Phil Wyche, I'17, who told me of his travels with other Cal Sigs to Ann Arbor around 1920. What an automobile trip that must have been! Phil said his single clearest memory involved a shorter Sig with red hair who played the piano. So, Pinky Roderick was not forgotten after 35 or so years. Phil told me they had the same curiosity about other chapters that we did.

Now I enjoy going "home" to Ann Arbor where Sigma Phi Place is now at 907 Lincoln Avenue. It's almost exactly 1,000 miles from my home in Bar Harbor, so it's not an easy trip. The ambiance there now is quite different from the '40s and '50s I remember so well. The stairs do not creak and the house structure doesn't have the same inviting warmth that is such a vivid part of my recollections of Ann Arbor days. On my next Ann Arbor visit, Lew Towler, M'47, and I will drive out to the tarmacked parking lot covering the site on North Ingalls of the former Red House on the Hill for a bit of rem-

iniscing and contemplation. We can be forgiven that. But time's arrow irrevocably alters our lives, and our focus is now on the men at 907 Lincoln.

I've had great pleasure in talking at some length with several of the young college men at 907 Lincoln. To glimpse their thinking and introspection brings back mine so vividly. Those four Ann Arbor years at the Sig House may be among the most, if not the most, important in developing a man's life. How he matures in this totally new and somewhat competitive environment away from the daily comforting of his parents. How he becomes independent and develops his thinking about a career and the future. How he works with others to make their daily lives workable and efficient. What he learns of life from Sig brothers each with a different previous life! How he disciplines himself. How dating and Sig Sisterhood begin to shape his thoughts about family. The very strong, often lifelong friendships being developed are powerful motivators. It is and was an awesome time for all of us.

I find it somewhat new each time I meet another Sig who shares the bonds, whether or not from the same chapter and time frame. Sigma Phi is truly intergenerational. And especially valuable are exchanges between older and younger Sigs. On these occasions, being considerably older, I don't presume to think I have any wisdom to impart. The wisdom is often seen in how the younger men now deal with age-old issues ... and the inexorable new ones that challenge them. Simply exchanging thoughts and experiences are in themselves worthwhile. For me, there always seems to be something refreshing to take home, think about and add to my experience.

I keep looking for some kind of brilliant insight for a "bottom line" of Sigma Phi and a conclusion for these thoughts. I'm still looking. One thing I've learned is that we cannot experience Sigma Phi alone. Excepting the warm memories which surely motivate us, Sigma Phi is always a social event involving at least two or more.

Path to 2027 *Continued from page 4*
Apt 5C, Long Beach, NY 11561)

If you would like to be involved in this important effort – or if you have suggestions or questions – please contact Alpha of New York Alumni President Ridgely Harrison, U'00 at ridgelyiv@gmail.com or 518-878-0807.

As this *Flame* went to press, these Brothers serve on The Campaign for the Alpha Committee: Harry Willis, U'63, Allen Miller, U'64, Tom Seem, U'65, Len Kagan, U'66, Peter Smith,

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Help Wanted *Continued from page 2*
especially in need of help from individuals with a number of professional qualifications:

1. Lawyers, accountants, and managers familiar with rules governing tax exempt organizations;
2. Lawyers and paralegals familiar with corporate structure & formalities;
3. Insurance professionals (including brokers, underwriters and the defense bar);
4. Individuals familiar with the valuation or protection of intellectual property;

5. Fundraising professionals;
6. Mental health and addictions professionals;
7. Members of 12-step programs;
8. Property management professionals,
9. Public relations professionals;
10. Event planners; and
11. Merchandising and sales.

If you're interested, please send an email to me at jamesvcolei@gmail.com and General Secretary David Munroe, I'86, at david.munroe@sbcglobal.net.

Undoubtedly, Sigma Phi has greatly contributed to making the best

of us 'best' and the rest of us (especially me) aspire. I believe that each of us was given a priceless gift when we joined Sigma Phi. As alumni, we reach points in our lives when we have worked hard to acquire special skills and monetary assets. Now is the time to share those gifts with the Society from which we have so generously received.

Each brother, regardless of his skills or financial situation, can make a gift of his time and enthusiastic participation. In both circumstances, my brothers, your help is wanted.

Looking Back at Williams

by Ted Wynne, W'56 t.wynne@on-line-english.net

As I understand it, Williams College changed the game in the early 1950s by delaying rushing for all fraternities until 10-12 days before the beginning of classes in sophomore year. In theory, rushing was confined to that period, leaving the entire freshman year – supposedly – free of the direct influence of fraternal life. There were severe penalties for “dirty rushing” (inappropriate contact/conversations between freshmen and the upperclassmen fraternity members) and the consequences were spread to both parties, if found guilty.

This Deferred Rushing practice had the result of making Williams freshmen rather isolated from the focal points of campus social and society life. Freshmen were not allowed on fraternity premises, for example. This fomented a fervor amongst the freshmen class for all things fraternal. But these campus societies were secret and to even ask for available society books in the College library was to risk being charged with attempting to obtain punishable information. Catch 22!! So all we prospectives had to go on was various contact made through classwork, extracurricular activities, athletics, campus politics, etc. This information we gleaned was anecdotal and fleeting at best, for we always had to be mindful of not overstepping “dirty rushing” boundaries, regardless of how well we may have gotten along with Greek upperclassmen with whom we came in contact.

As freshmen, we knew nothing of the values of Sigma Phi, and we were all deliberately kept in the dark about such matters. When it came time to evaluate Greek organizations, we had to judge the various societies based on the people we knew in each house. In turn, each house had to judge us based on what we had accomplished in freshman year and how we presented ourselves, plus any record of private contacts with members.

The result? Mistakes, prejudices, superficial judgments, mass hysteria and pre-conceived ideas held sway. Membership decisions on both sides were made on the basis of truly loose connections! It was only after pledging that we got to know the brothers well and they got to know us, whilst we were learning Sig lore and songs, etc., and pledging ourselves to the values of Sigma Phi.

This Deferred Rushing policy was instituted by Williams in an attempt to wrest allegiances away from the fraternities and direct them toward the College instead. The College believed this objective was vital in building a first-class educational establishment and attracting funds from alumni to build up the College endowments to enable that end. Fraternities housed and fed a hefty percentage of all Williams students. Worse, they were seen as standing in the way of progress and the achievement of academic excellence since they controlled the non-academic side of student life, were exclusive in their selection policies (some had “Aryan” clauses until the early 1960’s) and were often well heeled (owning huge chapter houses plus independent trust funds). To make matters worse, fraternities attracted substantial amounts of money from Greek Williams alumni: funds that the College coveted in order to serve its own goals directly. Finally, the all male College had a vision of moving towards being co-ed, and saw removing fraternities from the landscape as an important enabler.

In this complex, swirling context, freshmen were mere pawns in a rather grim battle between the College and the fraternities.

In the end, the College prevailed. Fraternities at Williams, some of which dated back to the early 1800s (Sigma Phi @ 1834), were banished from campus in the mid-1960’s. Once fraternities were gone, allegiances and most financial contributions came under almost complete College control.

Those new and draconian College realities were successful in eradicating Sigma Phi’s physical footprint in Williamstown. Over the years, however, Williams Sigs have demonstrated that Deferred Rushing, the subsequent Total Opportunity Rushing*, and 1962’s fatal Angevine Committee Report itself could not dampen our fraternity ideals ... nor our enduring regard for the Thrice Illustrious.

(* All who wished to join fraternities were given by the College at least one opportunity to do so, albeit not necessarily with the House of their choice.)



Ted Wynne, W'56



The Alpha of Massachusetts, 1834-1968

Sigma Phi Educational Foundation Receives Record Contributions; Starts Dramatic Initiatives

by David Pauls, M'65 davendavid@sbcglobal.net

In 2010, the Sigma Phi Educational Foundation (SPEF) was able to report it had tripled the Annual Campaign contributions over 2009 levels. For 2011, we almost accomplished that remarkable feat again, nearly tripling our contribution yield over 2010.

Part of the success for 2011 came from the diligent work of Scott McCrae, V'82, and David Williams, W'61, in deepening the interest in Sigma Phi of Roy Park who pledged Sigma Phi at Cornell in 1957. Through his own foundation, the Triad Foundation, Roy Park made the largest contribution to an Annual Campaign that SPEF has ever received. Interestingly enough, after leaving Cornell, Park later graduated from the University of North Carolina, the host of our most recent chapter! Roy has homes in both Ithaca, NY, and Chapel Hill, NC, with deep connections to both communities. Roy's Triad gift was specifically made to support SPEF's underwriting of Scott McCrae's Renaissance Program Director position.

2011 was a remarkable year for both Sigma Phi and SPEF. Due to the resources deployed in Sigma Phi's

dynamic Renaissance Program, our newest chapter at the University of North Carolina (UNC) grew from 5 actives to 22 in a two-week period, giving it just the boost the Tar Heel Alpha needed for viability. Updated risk management seminars were held at the majority of our chapters, with plans made to present at the remaining Sig sites in 2012. Jim Hansen, V'80, has been engaged as a traveling Risk Management Coordinator.

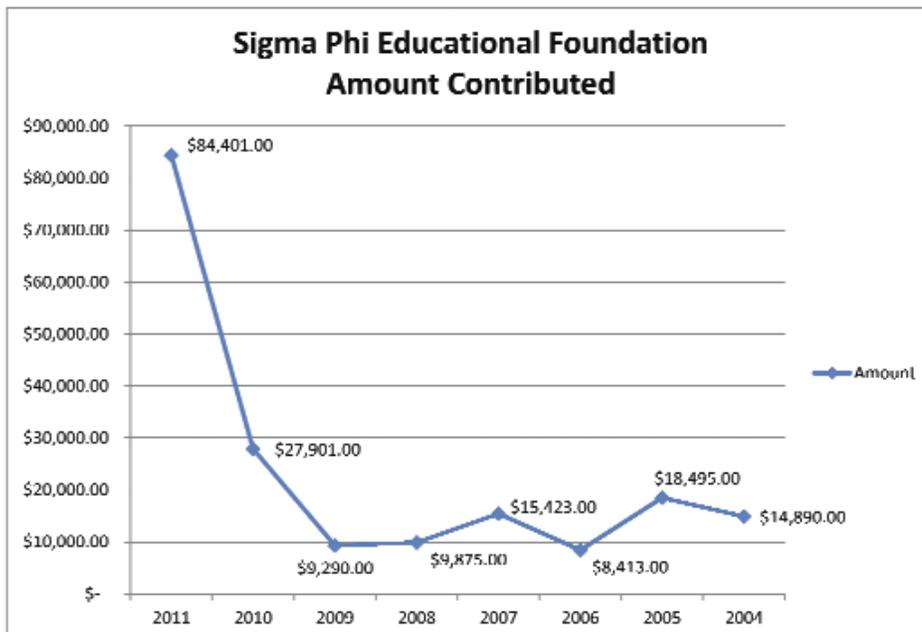
2012 is shaping up to be even more remarkable, especially for the SPEF-sponsored Renaissance Program. Following on the lead of the UNC chapter, the Alpha of California asked SPEF to support one-half the cost of engaging the company behind the UNC success (Phired Up Productions) to train the Berkeley chapter in the techniques of dynamic organizational marketing with the goal of increasing new member yield. The Berkeley chapter is pleased with the success (8 new pledges) of this new approach, fully expecting that success will be eclipsed in the 2012-13 school year when all the Phired Up techniques are put in regular practice. While SPEF is awaiting the final opinion letter from our tax-

exempt organization attorneys, we have strong indications that SPEF defraying half of Phired Up's educational fees (with the Alpha of California alumni corporation paying the other half), falls clearly within SPEF's educational mission.

Under a program in place for many years, the University of Virginia chapter recently replaced the wi-fi equipment required to deliver high-speed Internet service to the chapter at SPEF's expense. In other Charlottesville developments, the Serps recently sponsored a faculty dinner at the house, for which SPEF provided seed funding (meaning future such events will be built into the regular active chapter budget, not requiring SPEF funding). The faculty dinner is part of a carefully planned strategy to help distinguish the Virginia Sig house from other, less mature Greek organizations on campus. Such a thoughtful outreach is part of a larger strategy for attracting the kind of men Sigma Phi has always desired.

At the March 10 SPEF Board of Trustees meeting, a proposal to establish an annual Earl Warren Lecture Series in conjunction with the University of California at Berkeley Boalt Hall Law School was approved. Since 2012 is the 100th anniversary year of both Boalt Hall and Sigma Phi at Berkeley, proponents hope the series can be kicked off with a presentation by a sitting or retired U.S. Supreme Court justice. How appropriate, given that one of the Alpha of California founding members and one of Sigma Phi's most distinguished alumni is the late Earl Warren, I'12.

A final piece of SPEF good news involves the Internet: more specifically, the Society website (www.sigmaphi.org). At the March meeting in Ann Arbor, SPEF joined with the Society in the process of redeveloping the Sigma Phi Internet site, which hasn't been updated in the past six or seven years. In today's university *Continued on page 15*



Foundation from page 14 environment, a vibrant website is required to facilitate nearly everything a student organization does. University students today expect this – it represents basic “table stakes” to function on campus. An effective website is also expected more and more by younger alumni to

1) keep up-to-date on what their organizations are doing, and
2) provide an easy way to support those organizations financially. Since a dynamic new website will help both the Society and SPEF, the two bodies will split development costs. This is one of the most exciting

times in Sigma Phi’s long history, with new developments taking place at all levels. The ongoing efforts or your Foundation – driven by extraordinary generosity from a few Sigs – is contributing to the confidence with which we Sigs can view the next 185 years.

Sigma Phi Educational Foundation 2011 Annual Campaign Donors

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Robert M. Pyle Jr., W'57	Stephen B. Penwell, V'82	David A. Garden, L'48	E. Marston Jones III, H'57	Andrius Kontrimas, I'81
Peter Manus, W'62	William F. Callahan IV, V'87	Frederick C. Mueller, L'61	Timothy Pickering Jr., H'78	Moses Cesario, I'89
William H. Poarch, S'54	David Garrett Sweeney, V'02	Peter Y. Bolger, L'66	Lindsay Saville Suter, H'83	Ned Kirklín of Willis of
James L. Jenkins, S'58	Joshua Aaron Klein, V'05	Douglas H. Pace, L'68	John G. Martin, H'89	Nebraska Insurance
Godfrey M. Long Jr., S'61	Dan Lacroff, U'78	James C. Oswalt, L'76	James V. Grant, H'97	Elizabeth R. Martin

Spirit of Friendship Contributor

(up to \$99)

Jack R. Harned, F'51	Jack W. Kuehn Jr., W'61	Albert G. Borden Jr., U'36	Ronald Morgan, M'52	Joseph J. Laski, L'81
Leif R. Salvesen, F'60	Peter D. Hutcheon, W'62	Jackson Goddard, U'54	Richard J. Osius, M'56	Barron Torrey Nagle, L'85
George Ketterer, F'65	Mark E. Bowers Jr., S'61	Howard G. Carpenter Jr., U'58	George Ladner, M'67	Peter F. Birkel Jr., G'56
Daniel P. Neumann, F'71	Brian C. Justice, S'86	Tiffany Lawyer III, U'63	Mark W. Isken, M'85	Richard C. Block, G'56
Rex Jones, F'72	Stephen Matthew Gaspar, S'03	Peter K. Smith, U'67	Karl A. Gigante, M'86	Thomas C. Taylor, G'63
Scott B. Miller, F'73	Alan M. Byington, V'59	William F. Breg, U'72	Ismael Lee Sanchez, M'95	Charles T. Bates, H'50
Brian S. Fiedler, F'77	H. Scott Johnson, V'60	R. Steven Albert, U'74	Nathan Timothy Wade, M'05	Gregory Robert Abbe, H'08
Christopher J. Knuth, F'78	Richard H. Miller, V'66	Barry Rosenberg, U'80	John P. Beal Jr., L'37	Richard E. Glenn Jr., I'49
Matthew G. Boylan, F'96	Elias Lyman VIII, V'71	David Lawrence Loeb, U'99	Robert D. Pierson, L'54	Timothy Buckendorf, I'59
Ralph L. MacDonald Jr., W'60	Stephen C. Olson, V'78	Peter F. Grylls, M'50	Donald H. Fiedler, L'59	Roger A. Graham, I'68
David Postlewaite, W'60	Eric Jared Chartan, V'98	Robert L. Randolph, M'50	Richard S. Dorer, L'66	Joel Shumaker, I'80



Greg Bathon, H'53, posts this update from Baltimore. "I'm the secretary for Hamilton's Class of 1956 notes and – in that context – enjoy hearing from and about pledge brothers George Boveroux, Bill Barber, Gus Watters and others. There's too much talk of increasing physical ailments, of course, and I'm considering telling these guys to knock it off and come up with something perceptive about the lives they live reflecting better on their liberal arts education! Am married to Heidi, who is still my flanker after close to 55 years of banging around different parts of the world together. We moved to Baltimore because two of our three girls were working here, and our son was at the time a Marine officer at Quantico. It's a fine town, Baltimore; we live on top of a building on top of a hill right in the middle of it. Life goes on well." egab33@gmail.com

There's good Sig news from the world of the small screen. "I recently received my 6th Emmy Nomination," writes **Mark Bloomgarden, G'87**, "this one for my camera work on the live episode of *30 Rock*. I've earned two Emmys in other years, which certainly adds to the fun of being the owner of Zoomari Films in New York." marcbloomgarden@yahoo.com

In other news from Geneva Sigs, **Joshua Borthwick, G'97**, was married in Palm Beach, FL, in July of 2011, to Dilcia Burgos. In attendance were **David Manni, G'97**, and **Brian Schwabenbauer, G'99**. Josh and Dilcia now live in Delray Beach, FL, where Josh teaches. They enjoy spending time each summer in the Finger Lakes. josh_borthwick@hotmail.com

Frequent globetrotter and accomplished singer **Craig Brennan, M'78**, launched this transpacific dispatch: "The Michigan Men's Glee Club and Alumni just completed the first

Singing Tour of China in its 152-year history. We embarked on May 2 from San Francisco and returned to the States on May 16. Sixty-two active Glee Clubbers and 9 Glee Club alumni performed 5 concerts. Club members were fantastic ambassadors for the University, exciting Chinese audiences in Beijing, Xian, Chongqing, Wuhan, and Shanghai ... including even singing 3 songs in perfect Chinese! I hope Sigs continue to sing with the Michigan Men's Glee Club and continue the strong bond between two truly stellar University of Michigan student organizations."

cdbrrs@hotmail.com

(Note: Sigma Phi in Ann Arbor and the Michigan Glee Club have a long tradition with many Sigs as past Glee Clubbers including **Tom Woo, M'75**, **Jack Baker, M'76**, **Paul Brown, M'76**, **Phil Putman, M'77**, **Bill Steiner, M'75**, **Michael Klement, M'78**, **Anthony Abate, M'80**, **Bruce Moore, M'80**, **Jeff Sinclair, M'78**, **Neil Hediger, M'77**, **Craig Brennan, M'78** and current Sig **Alex Blugerman, M'10**. - Ed)

The Society offers deepest sympathies and Best Sig Love to **Tony Bryant, C'49**, whose daughter, Hilary, passed away unexpectedly on Easter Sunday at the age of 46. More information is shared in the most recent edition of the Cornell Chapter newsletter, *The Epsiloner*. You can reach Tony using this email address: awrbryant@msn.com

This update comes from **Graham Espe, H'99**. "I'm currently the Multimedia Systems Technician at Hamilton. I work in the ITS department and spend my days fixing issues with classroom technology on campus and setting up support for events and such. After being out of touch for some years, I've recently enjoyed becoming reacquainted with the Beta's actives. Since 2007, wife Heather and I have been totally wrapped up in founding and running two different flat track roller derby leagues in the area: Central New York Roller Derby (women) and The Quadfathers (men). For those who knew me during or after college, you'll laugh at the fact that I

am by all accounts an athlete in my current life, and spend most of my time doing accounting and nonprofit setup work. Quite a change from back in the day, eh?"

graham.espe@gmail.com



Nate Faxon, H'94

We have additional news about Hamilton alumni: in this case, **Nate Faxon, H'94**. Nate and writing partner Jim Rash earned an Oscar this past February for Best Screenplay Adaptation for their film *The Descendants*, starring George Clooney. Nate has acting chops as well; he's best known for his appearances in comedic films such as *Orange County* (2002), *Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story* (2007), and several Broken Lizard films including *Beerfest* (2006). (No contact information available; if you have such info, please advise - Ed)

We have this example of shameless Sig bragging (of the right kind, of course!) from **Rich Glenn, I'49**: "I marvel at **Clint Day, I'61**, a Californian by birth who now makes his home in Georgia and Florida. In spite of his distance from the California Alpha, he still apprises me of Berkeley news I might otherwise never know. For example, Clint recently shared the good news that Memorial Stadium reconstruction is on schedule, and that our beloved Bears will be playing for the home fans again in the fall. Clint also works

enthusiastically with Cal's Georgia alumni group and earns my continued Sigly admiration." (Rich lives at 998 Gold Nugget Cir, Lincoln, CA, 95648. Clint can be reached using this email address: clint.day@comcast.net)

In other news from Bay Area Sigs, **Doug Greenberg, I'00**, started a tax column in March for the *San Francisco Chronicle*. He explains: "I surf with the managing editor's son and on occasion his parents had tax questions. They know I'm a tax attorney, so they would ask those questions. One thing led to another, and I'm now a regular *Chronicle* contributor (to be found at <http://blog.sfgate.com/dgreenberg/>). As a tax attorney, I love the credibility and the exposure. More importantly, I've always wanted to do some kind of tax blog or column to help people better understand our tax system. It's complicated. And it can be overwhelming. My goal with this thing is to make the tax system more accessible, bring it down to Earth, maybe even make it fun and interesting. Ultimately, how I'll judge my success or failure is by how useful and interesting people think it is." dg@douglasgreenberg.com

Pete Hallock, C'50, of Tampa, continues to take life by the horns. "At 80, I am still flying. Last summer, we took a flight around the United States in my aircraft. We were gone for 5.5 weeks and put 50 hours on the plane's engine. We landed at 20 airports in 15 states. We flew approximately 4,400 nautical miles. More details are on my

blog: www.n3045a.blogspot.com." (The blog has multiple flying entries, by the way. Clearly, Brother Pete makes very good use of his favorite propeller-driven transport! - Ed.) n3045a@comcast.net

On 27 April, **Jack Harned, F'51**, was presented with the Distinguished Service Award by the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Journalism and Mass Communications. His career began as a daily newspaper reporter in Madison, continued as press secretary to Wisconsin's Senator William Proxmire in Washington, then 35 years as a corporate public relations executive with General Motors. Today, Jack is a founding partner of AutoCom Associates, a thriving public relations firm in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. In that role, he continues to have a passion for artfully spoken and written words. jrh647@aol.com

We received this April viewpoint from **Marshall Hoke, C'35**: "We all probably think our own delegation in our own college and class is unique and mine at Cornell's Epsilon was naturally all of that, too! We were a great group of 8 in the Sig traditions, I believe. Now, members of C'35 have almost all gone to their rewards. Their lifelong best love and friendship have meant almost as much as anything else to my essentially happy life, so far. Can't believe it's been 77 years since '35, but I can believe that my best "Sig Love" is still alive and kicking!" mpfoke@tds.net

You might say it's been a busy season for **Larry Ikard, H'94**. In a family sense, he's proud to report the birth of son Brian Witten Ikard on December 19, 2011. In terms of another of his passions, Larry ran once again in the Boston Marathon on April 16. That fleet-footed brother remembers: "It was very, very hot. Started out in the 70s and was near 90 by noon or so. But on the pavement it was way worse, and strangely there was no wind and no shade the entire way. I usually get to a spot in a marathon where I feel pretty good - not the case for Boston 2012!" likard@gmail.com

Sig Serendipity sometimes comes in very small packages! Such was the case on January 22, when **David Loeb, U'99**, and his wife, Cara, experienced the birth of their first son. They named him Benjamin, and that tiny fellow weighed 8 pounds, 5 ounces. But the real story is found in his middle name, reflecting one of the grandparent's names: Siggie. As a result of that familial naming convention, the littlest Loeb has the monogram: B.S.L. And all Sigs everywhere said ... AMEN! Hearty congratulations for 1) successful Loeb family childbearing and 2) stellar Sig lexicography can be conveyed to the proud papa at David.Loeb@morganstanley.com



Cross-country pilot Pete Hallock, C'50



B.S.L.

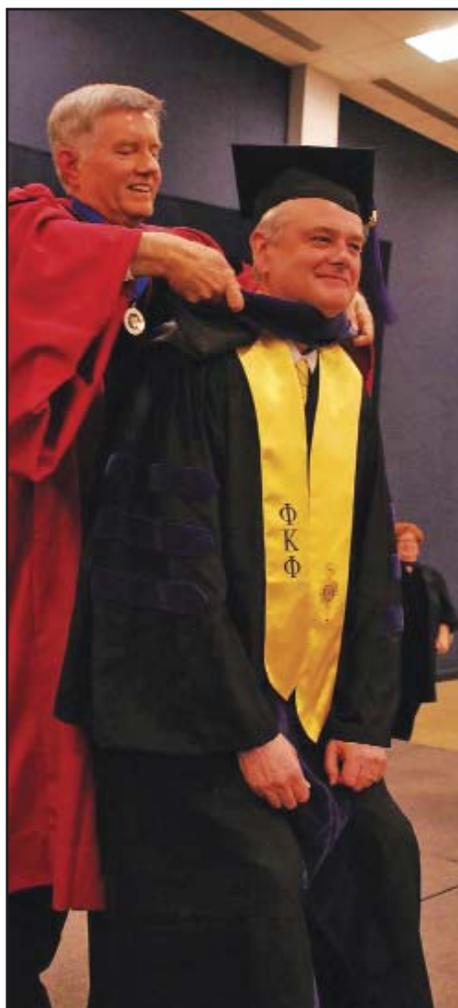
John McSweeney, F'65, shares this news about changing horizons. "After over 30 years in academia, I retired from my full-time position as Professor of Psychiatry & Neurology and Director of the University of Toledo's Neuropsychology Laboratory in July of 2010. About the same time, I graduated from U.T. College of Law and passed the Ohio Bar Exam. I'm now back at the University as a Professor Emeritus (E= out, meritus = deserves to be!) on a part-time basis.

I am still doing some of the old stuff (teaching, clinical service, research) but my specific mission is developing a joint JD/MD program for the University in which successful students will earn both degrees in 6 years. I also completed an Elder Law certificate and have volunteered to do pro bono work at the Toledo Bar Association in that specialty. Marilee (my wife of 43 years) also retired recently from more than 30 years as a librarian, and we are taking more time off to enjoy serious traveling. One of our great pleasures over the years has been visiting Sig friends and sharing food, drink and conversation."

John.McSweeney@UToledo.Edu

Ed Rice, M'80, posts this career news: "Last summer, I left my job as a partner at a big law firm (after seven years in government and sixteen years in big law firms) and started my own firm, together with three partners. The firm is called Hopenfeld, Singer, Rice & Saito LLP. We specialize in intellectual property and high-tech litigation. In short, we represent companies in legal battles over technology. Sigs can get my contact info on our website: www.hsrslaw.com. On a related note, fellow Sig and commercial real estate guru, **Bob Palffy, M'80**, recently helped us find space for our Chicago Office." e.rice1@comcast.net

We have news of the very best kind of reunion from **Leif Salvesen, F'60**. It took place last August at the home of Karen and **Bill Ghormley, F'58**, in Ojai, CA. In Leif's words, "It amounted to a confluence of events that three Sigs came together to visit a convalescing fourth brother at his home in



John McSweeney, F'65

California. Nora and I from Texas were visiting our daughter in Los Angeles, and Sue and **David Farley, F'58**, were on a vacation out west from Michigan. When **Bill Eckles, F'60**, heard we were getting together for lunch in Ojai, he drove up from Del Mar (CA) to partake in a heart-warming reunion of late-1950s Wisconsin Sigs. That August afternoon was special in that it brought together four Sigs who lived together fifty years ago at 106 North Prospect Avenue in Madison. Even after such a long time, it was effortless for us to fall into comfortable conversation and mutual companionship. It was a vivid example of how being a member of Sigma Phi indeed denotes 'lifetime membership.'"

leifrs@verizon.net

In this late May note, **Scott Sinclair, I'74**, confesses a return to old habits: "I am retiring from the World Bank this summer and taking up residence in Plymouth, MA. Nancy and I have bought an old shingle-style house on Cape Cod Bay, which I will spend my days restoring to elegance. Despite my career in finance, some will recall that I really enjoy working with my hands. Except, of course, for the time I cut off the tip of my thumb on the back porch



From left, standing: Bill Eckles, Leif Salvesen and Dave Farley, seated: Bill Ghormley

of the California Alpha while building the sauna – with a hand saw, no less! Anyway, I’m looking forward to my second stint as house manager, this time with a bigger budget.”

sbsinclair@aol.com

Steve Smith, G’75, writes: “I have been in the commercial real estate business in Miami for more than 20 years. Over the last nine years or so I have worked closely with and become good friends with **Gavin MacPhail, H’92**. Gavin is a Vice President with Jones Lang LaSalle. He brings us tenants for the office park we are developing. There are few Sigs here in South Florida who aren’t retired, so it was great to meet Gavin, and of course, we instantly had something in common.”

ssmith@thehogangroup.com

In a summer season where screen heroes called the Avengers are doing very well, Sigma Phi has its own Marvel comic hero: a modern-day “Aquaman.” That swim-oriented gentleman is **David Strasburg, F’85**, who is attempting to complete the “Triple

Crown” of marathon swimming: Manhattan Island, 28.5 miles; the English Channel, 21 miles; and the Catalina Channel, 21 miles. David reports as follows: “I first swam around Manhattan in 1989, and have completed that race a total of five times over four decades (1989, ‘90, ‘91, 2000, and ‘10). I swam the English Channel (UK to France) in 1993 in 11 hrs and 4 minutes. On June 27, 2012 (still ahead at press time), I will be attempting to complete the last leg, the Catalina Channel. The swim will start at midnight (nighttime currents are calmer) from the island of Catalina, and I will then swim through dawn towards South Los Angeles. It will take me between 10 and 12 hours. I will have my brother feeding me Gatorade off the boat every 30 minutes, and will get gels or solids off the boat every hour. FYI – The Viele Scholarship between 1989-91 allowed me to fulfill my passion for swimming by providing me the seed money for entry fees and travel expenses. I will forever be grateful for the opportunities the Viele allowed me to pursue.” (If David is

successful in mastering Catalina, he will be only the 50th person of any age to complete all three daunting aqua odysseys! -Ed)

dstrasburg@comcast.net

Bradford Wheler, C’73, recently wrote *Horse Sayings: Wit & Wisdom Straight From the Horse’s Mouth*. It is available for purchase at www.bookcollaborative.com and – naturally! – on amazon.com. Send your congratulations to this particular Epsilon Man of Letters via bgrwheler@aol.com

Jerry Zolobkowski, G’95, shares great news in the area of extreme personal fitness: “I received a kidney transplant last Christmas. In the recovery mode and doing very well. Thanks to everyone for their support.” Jerry presently lives in Pioneer Valley in Western Massachusetts with his wife, Amanda, and two dogs. He teaches science during the school year and anticipates starting a house rehabbing business in the area.

jzski@yahoo.com

Never Forget These Brothers

Since publication of the December 2011 Sigma Phi Flame, we have learned of the deaths of these Brothers.

Donald C. Bazemore, S’53 17 Feb 12
 Alfred Bernard III, S’59 11 Nov 05
 Frederick E. Boss, V’50 24 Nov 11
 Charles W. Brodhead, M’48 12 Sept 11
 William Dobson Burton, M’47 7 Sept 11
 Henry E. Catto Jr., W’49 4 Dec 11
 Morton M. Charnley Jr., M’43 6 Mar 12
 John J. Daly Jr., W’39 10 Aug 11
 Joseph A. Eagan Jr., H’69 16 Apr 10
 Brian P. Foley, L’85
 Theodore A. Harpainter, I’47 12 Jun 12
 Charles C. Harris, W’49 9 May 11
 R. Paul Higgins Jr., W’33 31 May 11
 Mitchell J. Hunt, V’47 30 Mar 12
 Christopher Hutchinson, S’62 26 Mar 12
 James W. Innes, W’51 19 Aug 11

William K. Johnson, L’47 28 Dec 06
 Donald A. Johnson, M’50 28 May 12
 Robert W. Ker Jr., V’42 16 May 12
 Cerdric E. Marsh, M’33 28 Oct 11
 Herbert H. Moser, W’52 14 Apr 11
 Robert L. Nelson, W’42 4 Aug 11
 Arthur C. Nielsen Jr., F’38 3 Oct 11
 F. Taylor Ostrander Jr., W’29 10 Nov 11
 Ripley Quinby Jr., V’51
 E. Jedd Roe Jr., W’52 20 Mar 11
 Putnam Schroeder, W’39 15 Jul 93
 Donald G. Stevens Jr., S’69 19 Mar 11
 Benjamin C. Symmers, S’60 14 Feb 11
 J. Stuart Torrey, V’37 8 Oct 10
 Peter B. Ward, G’51 20 Aug 06
 Stanford B. Wiggin, M’47 1 June 12



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The Pleasure of Your Company Is Requested

Dear Brothers,

All living members of the Sigma Phi Society – and this means you if you are reading this – are cordially invited to the 181st National Convention of the Sigma Phi, to be hosted this September by the Epsilon of New York on the beautiful campus of Cornell University. Given the chapter-by-chapter rotation of convention, it has been a decade since the Epsilon last hosted this event. We are excited to share the beauty of Ithaca, numerous improvements to the house, and the strength of the brotherhood with each of you!

The festivities are planned for September 14–16, 2012, one of the prettiest times of the year for the Cornell campus and the Finger Lakes region. Since hosting our last National Convention, a number of new buildings have opened on campus, including a new wing of the Johnson Museum of Art, state-of-the-art recreational and laboratory facilities, a new home for the architecture school, a

splendid new ornithology center, and a collection of residential colleges very close to Sigma Phi Place – all of which are worth a visit. Off campus, the Finger Lakes wine industry has achieved much over the past decade. In addition to winery tours, there are many opportunities for paddling, sailing, hiking, golf, and a variety of other activities on campus and in the region.

The convention committee has reserved blocks of rooms in several local hotels. At your earliest convenience, please visit www.SigmaPhiConvention.org to view details about registration, accommodations, and costs.

On behalf of the Epsilon, I cordially invite you to convention, sincerely hope that you attend, and warmly wish you happiness and prosperity in the interim.

Yours in the Bonds,

Glenn "Rusty" George, C'82, Alumni Chairman
ggeorge001@yahoo.com • 215-620-0355

Convention Highlights Include the Following:

Thursday September 13th:

- Evening – Welcome barbecue at the house

Friday, September 14th:

- Daytime – Working meetings of the S&A and the SPEF, an undergraduate workshop
- Evening – Dinner at the house, followed by the Hicks Oratorical Contest, held in the Memorial Room of Willard Straight Hall, whose hammer-beam roof is decorated with banners donated by the Epsilon;

Saturday, September 15th:

- Morning – Annual Meeting of the Members
- Afternoon – Outdoor activities
- Evening – Convention banquet in the Risley Hall dining room, modeled after the Christ Church Refectory at Oxford University

Sunday, September 16th:

- Farewell brunch at the house.
- Departures

For more information and to RSVP, please visit the event website: www.SigmaPhiConvention.org