

Sigma Phi

FLAME

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HOTEL UTICA.
RECEPTION LOBBY.

***Sigma Phi Educational Foundation
Envelope Enclosed***

Chairman's Message:

'A Modest Proposal'

by Brendan McCurdy, H'80 ofelixculpa@aol.com

The Standing and Advisory committee and the trustees of the Sigma Phi Educational Foundation ratified at this year's convention a new organizational structure that puts in place an Executive Director and a Director of Development for our Society. This change is further explained in an article in this edition of this Flame written by Vice Chairman Moses Cesario, I'89, who was instrumental in defining roles and executing the plan. We are excited by the potential that this change can bring to our Society and the betterments that will impact all our members, actives and alumni, alike. The operational plan sets forth a shopping list of tasks that our Directors will set out in earnest to accomplish over the next several years.

I would like to set our sights out a little bit further – twelve years, to be precise – to 2027. It is in that year that the Sigma Phi will be celebrating the 200th anniversary of her founding, a milestone that few organizations can lay claim to in these United States. I accordingly borrow from the Most Rev. Jonathan Swift (he of Gulliver's Travels fame) to present a "Modest Proposal" (far removed from that writer's cruel satire, of course!) to our Society in anticipation of March 4th, 2027.

Firstly, I propose that the Sigma Phi have published a catalogue of the Society. The last effort was completed in 1977 and includes historical sketches of each chapter and a roster of brothers, living and deceased. Much has happened over the ensuing 50 years and will happen in the years leading up to our anniversary. A written, bound and hardcover edition is called for and should be completed in time for our 200th milestone.

Secondly, the Society should endeavor to increase its active chapter count by at least two, which would

bring us to 12 chapters in all. The additions can be either through re-colonization on campuses where we once had a presence or by bringing the flame of Sigma Phi to a new location. The success of our newest, youngest chapter at the University of North Carolina should provide us with all the encouragement we need to make this effort. Easy it will not be but the fruits of our labor will indeed be sweet and worth the time, energy and treasure involved.

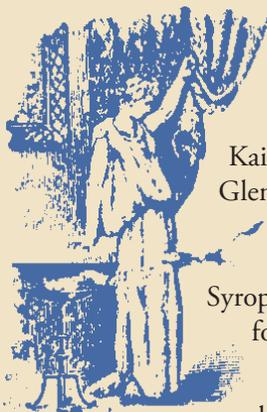
Finally, the third proposal is that we see to it that our Foundation corpus grows to a seven figure endowment. That may not at first blush appear modest, but I believe it is well within our ability considering the number and quality of our alumni brothers. Indeed, one might question why today we fall short of that number, even when the National endowment is added to the Education Foundation's corpus. People give when they feel a connection to the one asking and believe that their money will be put to good use. Surely the Sigma Phi Society meets both of those requirements. When you are called



Brendan McCurdy, H'80

upon to give, consider the words of William Bristol, H' 1913: "When asked to give, I give three times over: Once for the fellow who would like to give and can't, once for the fellow who can give but won't, and once for myself."

Esto Perpetua, my brothers. I very much hope to see you at the Alpha of Alphas on that glorious day of March 4th, 2027. 🕯



KUDOS & THANKS ...

...to the following Sigs for their articles, information or encouragement supporting this issue of the *Flame*:

Kai Brodeur, M'12, Sam Cain, M'15, Moses Cesario, I'89, Glenn George, C'82, Dave Pauls, M'65, John Mason, S'55, Brendan McCurdy, H'80, John Paraskevopoulos, I'15, Dan Neumann, F'71, Andrew Root, V'12, and George Syrop, I'12. Special thanks are due also to Scott Hekel, F'97, for capturing and sharing convention images from Utica.

Your contributions, gentlemen, reflect well on you at the same time they surely make the issue of the *Flame* in which they appear far more representative. There is no substitute for hearing the voices of Sigs on the pages of Sig periodicals.

When the time comes that you have feedback, suggestions, photographs and/or Sig stories to share, please contact editor **Mike Imirie, M'69** (mimirie@aol.com).

Introducing Christy Lambden, T'11

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

The Society's new Director of Development came to Sigma Phi via the road less traveled: the one which winds westward, across the Atlantic. Christy Lambden, T'11, you see, is a Brit!

A native of Shepton Mallet in Somerset, England, he matriculated to the University of North Carolina in 2010 on the strength of the Morehead Cain Scholarship that he earned via hard work in high school. Christy's time in Chapel Hill was busy. En route to double major in political science and philosophy, he became enthusiastically involved with student government. Along the way, he was introduced unexpectedly to Sigma Phi by the Phired-Up recruiting process authorized by the Society in 2011. While he had only a passing interest in fraternities... and plenty to do on campus... Christy was nonetheless intrigued by the interest, enthusiasm and excitement that was so palpable at the first recruitment meeting. "There were about 20 of us there. It became apparent very quickly that the caliber of men was high and that - if we decided to join Sigma Phi

together - we could likely accomplish some very exciting things, not to mention have a lot of fun!" He said 'yes!'

Christy later served as the first pledge chair for Alpha of North Carolina, designing the new process with a focus on developing leaders and a coherent group. He remembers with real gratitude receiving terrific support from his brothers during his (successful) run for Student Body President as a senior. He also remembers the remarkable support demonstrated by alumni from other chapters towards the UNC chapter during its renaissance. "Steve Wright, S'93, in particular gave so generously to our chapter, including hosting social events and being the Alumni Board President for the Chapter for 7 years."

After graduating from UNC in 2014, he worked in the University Chancellor's office on matters of strategic planning and improved communications. When he was tapped to work for the Society in the role of Development Director this past June, Christy saw it as a wonderful marriage between his existing skills and his love for Sigma Phi. Thoughtful, goal-oriented and unflappable, he jumped right in to the work ahead.

Key Sig views: Society strengths - "I think our alumni base is Sigma Phi's greatest asset. However, at the moment we aren't doing a good job of engaging our alumni and asking for their support. Over the coming year we are going to be introducing a number of new programs to engage our alumni and drive up participation."

Alumni roles - "I would ask of our alumni that they always accept a phone call from another Sig, and be willing to provide advice, help, and support when asked."

General alumni goal - "For alumni to remain engaged and passionate about



Christy Lambden, T'11

the organization for many years."

Specific alumni goal - "To create an effective mechanism whereby alumni can advertise internship and job opportunities to undergraduate brothers."

Future direction for Sigma Phi? - "We need to find meaningful ways for the Society to provide more support and programming for our alumni and undergraduates."

Future direction for Christy: "The last edition of the 'Flame' introduced the theme of 'Long Haul Sigs.' That's my goal for me and for those I meet: continued, passionate involvement and participation with the Thrice Illustrious."

Christy has already traveled extensively on Sigma Phi's behalf. His chapter visits always include reaching out to learn how the national organization can better assist, delivering sexual assault/bystander intervention training, and meeting with area alumni. As this issue went to press, Christy had visited all ten chapters, flown the better part of 40,000 miles coast to coast, and become a great fan of Delta Airlines! You can reach the Society's Development Director via e-mail at lambdenc@gmail.com

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 the Sigma Phi National Headquarters, Post Office Box 4633, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-4633.

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Sigma Phi Home Page:
www.sigmaphi.org



Sigma Phi Adopts New Administrative Structure: 'Unified Strategic Planning Drives the Result'

by Moses Cesario, I'89 moses@cesario.net

FLT is important ... nay, crucial ... to perpetuate. The world needs principled men who live by honorable charge.

Hence, it was in the spirit of perpetuating FLT that I approached my responsibilities as Vice Chairman of the Standing & Advisory Committee. Now into my 3rd year, my experience has allowed me to grow into the Vice Chair's role of oversight and execution. I was one of several Sig leaders who observed at times disjointed leadership efforts. Such efforts were well-intended but characterized by a lack of coordination. For a body which has functioned much the same way for over 100 years, this isn't surprising. Like all organizations, we have faced our share of competing agendas which served inescapably to dilute our focus and effectiveness. Mindful of the need to improve, the leadership of both the S&A and the Sigma Phi Educational Foundation (SPEF) embarked on the hard work of getting on the same page. In early 2015, a series of intense, formal discussions took place. Over time, we shaped a combined vision of how the Society and the Foundation could and should work in unison. We shared that vision at a

combined strategic planning meeting in Manhattan in June to unanimous approval and we're pleased this year's Convention session at Hamilton formally approved our plan.

This new leadership plan defines new roles, outlines clear responsibilities and - for what may be the first time ever - lays out a series of yearly operating plan goals in writing. We are now measuring to our stated goals. Sounds simple, right? But it's an organizational first for Sigma Phi. And an important one.

It's my privilege to report news of this change to you via the Sigma Phi Flame.

The most noteworthy element of this change involves two new paid leadership roles: an Executive Director and a Development Director. In his role as the Society's Executive Director, David Pauls, M'65, is responsible for overall execution of a yearly operating plan for both the Society and the Foundation. Christy Lambden, T'11, as our first Development Director for both the Society and SPEF, will fundraise to build our endowments and provide targeted support for the new operating plan.

(Continued on Page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Specifics of the new organizational arrangement include:

- The Executive Director reports to the National Sigma Phi Society Chairman and serves at the pleasure of the S&A Committee.
- The Development Director reports to the Executive Director as do all other functional officers and paid positions for both the National Sigma Phi Society and SPEF. This includes contractors.
- The two positions are shared by the two corporate bodies (SPEF – our public charity arm & National Sigma Phi – our governing not-for-profit fraternal corporation) for operational purposes and are funded by both entities.
- The Executive Director authors a yearly operating plan that must then be approved by the S&A for activity content, and approved by the SPEF Board to direct SPEF funding solely to those projects and efforts qualifying for tax deductible funding.
- The yearly operating plan is to be presented for for-

activities to be pursued.

Our movement to this model of national management mirrors that of other similar fraternal organizations. On a yearly basis, certain activities are required to ensure successful execution of the corporation's duties. For Sigma Phi, a paid secretary and volunteer time by board members have done this job in past years with varying results. In our much more complex, fluid current Greek environment, however, this old structure falls short in providing timely, consistent guidance of activities such as fundraising, execution of projects supporting various chapter activities, management of national meetings and coordination of ritual and tradition. Dedicated staffing and clear lines of responsibility by role will allow Sigma Phi leadership to achieve more reliable, timely and consistent results. Importantly, it will also permit better support for our ten chapters.

The long term intention is to provide for a compensation package for the two new positions competitive with comparable positions in similar organizations. However, due to existing fund balances within both the

“Among so few...”

SIGMA PHI SOCIETY · 1827-2015

mal authorization at the March 4th annual Sigma Phi Society S&A meeting in advance of its execution the following year. Because this is the first year, the 2016 operating plan was adopted at the Hamilton Convention by the S&A, the SPEF Board of Directors and the Convention itself.

In fundamental ways, these changes initially address the major challenges that Sigma Phi must deal with today. Chief among those are (1) proper staffing (2) clear definition of the national organization's activities and (3) clear definition of authority, roles and responsibilities with appropriate oversight and accountability. The new combined operations team will provide support of all national-level activities regardless of funding source and be responsible for proposing and executing an operating plan that solely establishes

Society and the Foundation, we are not in a position to offer full time compensation packages. Each position is accordingly compensated at a modest annual rate of 30K until such time as capital fundraising efforts can support an increase in salary amounts.

The governing bodies of the Society and SPEF are excited and gratified by these developments. The current environment in which this Society practices friendship and does its business is challenging. We need to do more to support our chapters than we have in past. Our new operating structure and strategic plans will help us better meet the evolving obligations of the Sigma Phi Society and the Sigma Phi Educational Foundation, materially improving the ability of a more cohesive national organization to support its member chapters and its alumni.

California & Vermont Accorded 2015 Newsletter Awards

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

The Society conferred its 2014-2015 annual Newsletter Awards at the National Convention hosted by the Beta of New York in Utica, New York.

The winner of the undergraduate competition was the Alpha of Vermont, publishers of the Cat's Tale. This broke a string of four consecutive undergraduate newsletter awards won by the Alpha of North Carolina, which published an excellent issue of the T Times again this year.

The Sig Bear, published by the Alpha of California, earned top honors in the competition involving newsletters published by alumni organizations, narrowly edging The Epsiloner published by our Cornell chapter.

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

The 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 Cat's Tale earned Vermont its first national active chapter Newsletter Award in recent memory, while The Sig Bear is California's sixth award-winning alumni newsletter since the national recognition program's 1990 inception.

The Society's Standing & Advisory Committee, in collaboration with the Sigma Phi Educational Foundation which funds the winners' plaques, encourage all chapters to communicate regularly with their members.

To ensure consideration, 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 also encouraged to send their 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 judging needs.

Viele Scholarship: Astonishing Sig Opportunity!

by Glenn George, C'82 ggeorge001@yahoo.com

The Francis S. Viele Scholarship Trust awarded \$121,000 for the 2015-2016 academic year to 31 very accomplished and academically promising Sigs. The total dollar amount awarded this year held steady despite continued financial market volatility. The average grant size was just over \$3,900 - a significant contribution to meeting any student's expenses, even in this era of tuition hyperinflation. The proportion of applicants receiving an award (about 74 percent) was higher than the long-term average (around 50 percent) due to the overall high quality of this year's applicant pool.

The significant distribution of scholarship funds again demonstrates the Society's unwavering commitment to the pursuit of truth through scholarly endeavor.

Among this year's winners are two Viele Mentors, graduate students at the University of Virginia and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Viele Mentors are expected to serve in an informal advisory role to the active chapter on the campus at which they are pursuing graduate studies.

In terms of overall performance, the stand-out this year was the University of Virginia, with a total 11 Viele awards.

Details of the awards by chapter are shown in the tables below. Please note that asterisks denote chapters from which no applications were received and, consequently, no awards were made.

Viele Scholarships By Chapter

Chapter	Active	Grad	Total
Union	2	2	4
Hamilton	*	*	*
Hobart	*	*	*
Vermont	3	0	3
Michigan	4	0	4
Cornell	3	0	3
Wisconsin	*	*	*
California	4	0	4
Virginia	9	2	11
North Carolina	2	0	2
Grand Total	27	4	31

Tarheel Sigs Earns Scholastic Acclaim ... Again: Three Chapters Tops on Campus

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

The Standing & Advisory Committee announced the results of the Society's Scholastic Recognition program for the 2014 - 2015 school year at the recent Hamilton convention.

The Alpha of North Carolina earned Sigma Phi's Scholastic Achievement Award for the fourth consecutive year with the highest performance among reporting chapters by posting a 3.73 GPA, the top Greek organization on the UNC campus.

North Carolina also earned the Society's Scholastic Improvement Award as it increased its performance over 2013 - 2014 by 0.15.

In recognition of their achievements, the chapter earned a \$1,000 grant for each award, funded by the Sigma Phi Educational Foundation.

After a successful thirty-six year run, this recognition program went on hiatus following the 1995 Convention. The Standing & Advisory Committee resolved to reinstitute the program several years ago. The Society's efforts to encourage broader chapter participation by implementing simplified reporting procedures to leverage evolving technological advances appear to be making some progress as the Alpha of New York (3.13) and Alpha of California (3.31) also reported their GPAs this year.

Independently and of interest, Sigma Phi's national office received scholastic information from several of the colleges and universities that host Sig chapters. Although the numbers are calculated differently at the various institutions, comparisons with other fraternities on each campus are possible.

The Society applauds the results of the five of seven chapters for which information is available for ranking in the Top 3 among their campus's fraternities.

Chapter	GPA	Rank	No.of Campus Fraternities
North Carolina	3.60	1	24
Hamilton	3.44	1	10
Vermont	3.01	1	9
Wisconsin	3.29	2	26
Cornell	3.56	3	36
Union	3.17	6	10
Virginia	2.74	31	31

Adding the most recent awards to historical results from 1959 - 1995, this marks the fifth and sixth awards earned by the young North Carolina chapter.

Chapter	Achievement Award	Improvement Award	Total	Last Award
Wisconsin	8	9	17	2009-10
Hamilton	11	1	12	2012-13
Cornell	7	1	8	1985-86
Virginia	3	5	8	2010-11
California	4	3	7	1993-94
Michigan	4	2	6	1990-91
North Carolina	4	2	6	2014-15
Lehigh	0	6	6	1994-95
Union	0	5	5	1985-86
Williams	3	0	3	1962-63
Hobart	0	3	3	1984-85
Vermont	0	2	2	2013-14
Total	44	39	83	

As another step in reinvigorating the program, Jon Bellona, H'00, has been actively interacting with our chapters to gather the necessary administrative information. John expressed his gratitude to participating active chapter presidents and alumni for their cooperation in helping continue the program's revival.

Additional scholastic recognition program information can be obtained by contacting Jon at jpbellona@virginia.edu or Dan Neumann, F'71, the Society's Recognition Chairman, at dca120@sbcglobal.net.

Administrative Tip from Betty

Updating your contact information with HQ is very easy

You can contact me directly:

bbartolotta@sigmaphisociety.org or 919 381-5073.

You can also update your contact information on the Sigma Phi Society website <http://www.sigmaphi.org/>

Undergrads, when updating your profiles on the Sigma Phi Society website, please provide your home (not University/College) address. We need to know how to reach you when you graduate; how else are you going to receive your copy of "the Flame" ?





Sig Undergraduates: Bright Minds, High Hopes

While it's logical to think of our senior alumni as present-day Society gatekeepers, today's undergraduates will do that vital custodial work tomorrow. If the thinking demonstrated by these five young Sig undergraduates in the following features is representative, we are in good hands as we look to Sigma Phi's future.



Why We Swing

by George Syrop, I'12 george@syrop.co

The Sigma Phi is no stranger to ritual. For nearly two centuries, we have tirelessly performed our rituals for fledglings of the earthly realm seeking to join our illustrious ranks. Indeed, it is ritual that separates us from meek mortals and seats us comfortably next to the brothers Bowie, Cromwell, and Witherspoon. Ritual is what transforms our handshakes into emphatic fingers upon the pulse. Ritual is what conjures and sustains our brotherhood. But ritual requires vigilance.

As ritual becomes an act of muscle memory, we may forget to question our intentions. What justifies our rituals? What imbues them with meaning and transforms the pledge process into the profound and sacred? The answers, dear brothers, should come as no surprise:

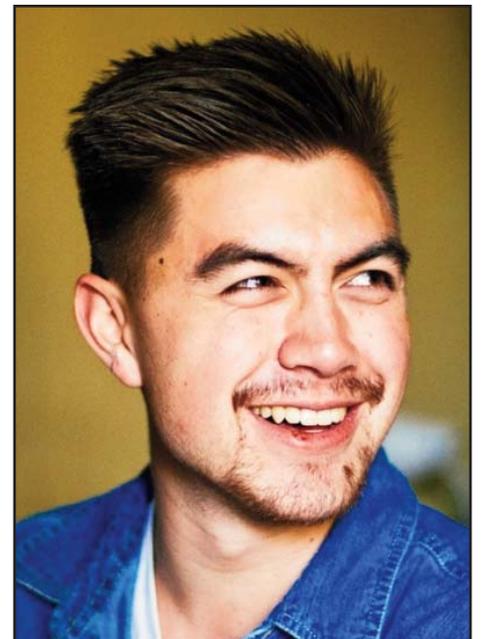
Friendship. Love. Truth.

Our core tenets can become meaningless clichés without constant reflection. Left to their own devices, rituals

run the risk of fermenting: becoming sinister versions of their former selves. They start to resemble the very antithesis of what Sigma Phi stands for.

Consider what drives your chapter's rituals. Are they acts of genuine friendship, love, and truth? Or are they laced with malice and insecurity, wrapped in some misguided performance of masculinity? If you sense that your chapter's current rituals may contain traces of the latter, I implore you to take action. As leaders and brothers of the Sigma Phi, we are morally obligated to ensure our traditions remain in line with our core tenets.

We are the curators of the Sigma Phi experience, entrusted with upholding the vision of our four founders. Through sharing our rituals with lowly neophytes, we not only craft the legacy our soon-to-be brothers will inherit after we graduate, we also shape Sigma Phi's culture for generations to come. Remain wary, brothers. Be very mindful of what founders Bowie, Cromwell,



George Syrop, I'15

and Witherspoon believed in: what **we** believe in. Present the Thrice Illustrious from this place of selflessness. Give your pledges something that is truly worth living and dying for.

Our future depends on it. 

Meeting Old Friends for the First Time

by Andrew Root, V'12 ahroot@gmail.com

Until this October, I had never been to Hamilton College, I had never been to our National Convention, and I had never met more than a handful of Sigs from chapters other than my own. It's clear to me now that I should have done all of this a long time ago.

Nestled between the Adirondacks and the Catskills in the beautiful Mohawk Valley, Hamilton College has a picturesque campus with a history rich with connections to our Society. Coming to Convention and meeting Sigs from across the country in this special place has again changed for me what means to be a Brother. For those of you who have never been to a National Convention before, this is what it's like to go for the first time:

First of all, you realize how much in common you have with the other Brothers who have traveled from far and wide to be there. There are intangible things that seem to be common for Sigs from every chapter. It's very hard to describe, but when you arrive at Convention and start talking with other wandering birds, you get the sense that, if you all had been at the same college at the same time, you would have become fast friends. And the feeling isn't limited to brothers of your same age. It seemed quite true for all of the Sig generations who come together for Convention. Spirits are high among those who travel in the name of Sigma Phi. It's an obvious and joyful common denominator.

At the same time, Convention brings work which needs doing. This is not work in the sense that a boss or professor has tasked you with completing some monotonous chore, however. Instead, the work that gets done at Convention is a labor of love done for our Society's sake.

First, delegations from the active chapters spent Friday in a day-long



Undergraduate participants at the Hotel Utica's Convention banquet Saturday night

Foundation-sponsored workshop. This year's topic had two parts. The first was a workshop on Sig ritual led by Good Graduate Brothers Mike Imirie, M'69, and Scott McCrae, V'82. This was a logical (strategic?) examination, given the reality that membership in college organizations is plagued by an inescapable four or five year turnover. On one hand, this means that our oldest and most sacred rituals can be lost from the collective chapter memory in just four short years if they are not deliberately examined and passed down on a regular basis. It also means that a practice that seems like a good idea at the time can become an "ancient tradition" in no time. In this workshop section, active Brothers unpacked the importance of our rituals, how we first experience them, how we perpetuate them, and which of our 'traditions' need to be left behind for the good of our Society.

In the afternoon, Good Graduate Brother Christy Lambden, T'11, facilitated a far-reaching session on universal campus concerns: things like sexual assault prevention, risk management, recruitment, maintenance, and university relations. These topics represent key priorities on every campus, and Christy focused active chapter delegate atten-

tion in such a way as to remind us of the need Sigs have to manage those concerns personally. We shared our collective experiences, current techniques, and realistic plans for addressing these issues at a chapter level. It was one of the most productive conversations that I have ever had regarding these issues, and a key part of such value was the undergraduate sharing that went on.

Saturday's General Convention Meeting offered each chapter a voice at the national level. Active Presidents gave reports detailing the current state of their respective chapters. The assembly discussed and voted on a number of matters pertaining to the Society as a whole. Attending this annual meeting is absolutely the best way to know what's happening within our chapters and in the Society as a whole.

Whether you come to Convention for the camaraderie, for the networking opportunities, for the leadership support, or to be a part of the National Assembly, you'll get to experience it all. I hope that, whether you're an active or alumnus, you will take the opportunity to come to the 2016 National Convention at the Alpha of Alphas in Schenectady, and I hope to see you there.

Sig Badge: Ways & Means

by Kailash Brodeur M'12 brodeurk@umich.edu

I feel like a charlatan for trying to author such a weighty discourse, but when caller ID shows a Detroit area code, you know you've got to answer. And truth be told, I felt honored beyond words that Mike Imirie, M'69, should call me. (How in the world did he get my cell number?) During our discussion on topics for the article, the Flame's editor expressed interest in my exploring some meanings of the phrase "long run Sig." It was the first time I had heard the phrase. At first, I was intrigued. My curiosity was short lived, however, when it dawned on me that the assignment would find me attempting to define an important Sig standard ... and then having to measure myself against it.

During the final stage of my initiation into Sigma Phi - just when I thought I could not be further impressed - I was swept away by the last bit of information presented to all us newly initiated brothers: the meanings of the Sig badge. I learned all about the jewels and what they represent, the relationship between the Sigma and the Phi, the reasons behind those Greek letter choices and the core message of that badge, hidden from the eyes of the world. I also learned the meanings of the various engravings, meanings which essentially connect the origins of our Society back in 1827 with my own experiences as a very new member.

I realized that my initiation and that remarkable piece of Sig jewelry

would come to represent a wonderful period of my youth at the University of Michigan. I was pumped and ready to buy the badge. It would be the ultimate symbol of my fraternity, my collegiate years, even my youthful self! But then I learned the daunting cost: \$400. Uh-oh. How could I ever afford that? I'm already living off of scholarships and working to pay for rent and books and food...

In each initiation that occurred after mine, I was reminded again and again of the symbolism of that badge. Oh, how I wanted one! I longed to wear it proudly at different Sig events, just like the alumni proudly wore theirs, talking fondly of the house and their time as undergraduate brothers on campus. Finally, during my senior year, I applied for the Viele Scholarship. One of the questions on the application was whether I owned the badge. I wrote the sad truth that I couldn't afford it.

A few months later, I succeeded in earning a Viele. With my scholarship came a modest requirement to use some of the money to buy the badge. I cannot explain how elated I felt, not just at winning the scholarship, but at finally being able to spring for the Sig badge! But now I faced a new problem: should I buy the electroplated badge and save



300 odd dollars or go with the 10k gold? I decided for the gold badge, since I knew that this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to have and to wear a marvelous symbol that would shine with all its original glory ... right into my old age.

The order process was very simple and straightforward. With a little help from some alumni, I had the order placed and the badge was shipped within a few weeks. I was overjoyed when that piece of mail arrived at 907 Lincoln. When I wore that new badge for the 4th of March Banquet in Ann Arbor in 2015, many alumni were impressed that a young guy like me had already bought a Sig badge. And I was truly thrilled to have the badge, personalized with my CR name, the date I joined and the date the Society was founded.

I hope this short essay might motivate others. It strikes me that, although the Sig badge is pricey, its lifetime cost is minimal. This seems particularly true compared to the happy memories that are guaranteed to come flooding back each time it is brought out of its velvet-lined box and worn proudly. If you haven't yet done so, find a way to buy yours soon, my brother, and wear it in peace and health!



Competing Priorities, Among Which Sigma Phi Numbers

by Sam Cain, M'15 samcain@umich.edu

Wake up! There's a foggy picture of what you're going to do today in your mind. That picture crystallizes as you bathe and push (often meager) food into your body, giving you the track to set your body's autopilot until you fully come to consciousness. Sometime between your first and third morning class of the day, you realize you're no longer contemplating crawling back into your sheets nor are you confusedly rolling the professor's words around in your head as he tells you the secrets of the universe. Instead, you are actually engaged - actually cognizant - of what's in your environment and how you feel about it. Now you feel human.

It's about this time that the surety that came from that proto-itinerary - that primal imagining of my goals for the day - evaporates. I now have to start adjusting what I'm really going to do. My phone is still acting up, so I'm going to have to postpone that tenuous and amorphous plan for coffee I and ten other acquaintances from Chemistry made. Marching Band's email came late, so I have to allow for 20 minutes of grace period before class actually starts to iron out what music I'll have to get printed...er, reprinted; excuse me. Physics homework is due tonight, so it looks like entertainment is once again (pitifully) sacrificed on the altar of my future. Oh. And that date I had for tomorrow? It's now set and she can't wait to see me!

This all runs through my mind, not in any order...or continuity...or even intrinsic stability. Instead, it runs through my cranium in a maelstrom, screaming for my attention amid the pathfinding, conversing, (hopefully) eating, and other tasks that make up either the 10 or 70 minutes I usually have in between the majority of my

day's segments, from stepping out my door early AM until collapsing onto my bed late PM. Thankfully, after only a couple storms of planning, things again precipitate into solid, beautiful, but still potentially mutable forms. A calendar-like view appears in my mind's eye. Clearly, I have to uphold the commitment I have towards experiences and classes which build preparedness for my career. (You know: that thing greater than what I'm doing this very minute). I must make time for those fleeting, wonderful moments of fun and levity that make life livable and give relationships sustenance. Those beautiful, rare things that require so much work that they justify themselves - i.e., the people and achievements that embody desire - are put into whatever space they can fit into...and sometimes even those they really can't.



And then there are the things I do for reasons that are hard to put into words... the satisfaction of practicing a skill, the appreciation of an art, the thrill of performance, the membership of something bigger than myself...for those I steal time which must of necessity be taken from those other things.

When I examine the time I have, I conclude the following. I uphold my academics for progress. I make modest time for enjoyment. I fit in burning commitments and pay my seconds to the ensemble (Michigan Marching Band) that is sometimes even used to define me. And in these ... between these ... among these, I count my



Sam Cain, M'15

activity in a certain society uniquely. Sigma Phi represents all of these types of commitments, all of these prioritized items on my day's to-do, in that I visit those belonging to the Society for enjoyment and to escape academia, and to build connections that will lift me to soar through the rest of my life. I do so because of the raw emotion, effort, desire I had during and after initiation that I had to maintain in order to become a part of Sigma Phi. I also do this because I selfishly but sincerely love the feeling of belonging. I walk down Ann Arbor sidewalks and through student housing, thinking of how later I may grab lunch with some of pledge class peers and reminisce about our misadventures months previous, or how I need to help set up for a benefit show being put at 907 Lincoln on later in the month.

Sigma Phi is a part of my college experience. It is a part of life now. As a busy, even fully involved student, she is one of my many priorities, but she is certainly unique among them. 

2015 Hicks Oratorical Contest: 'The Endurance of the Living Charge'

by Andrew Root, V'12

(A poignant convention highlight is provided by the Hicks Oratorical Contest. This year's convention hosted by the Beta of New York was no exception. Gathered in the venerable Hamilton College Chapel, six undergraduates representing five chapters eloquently shared their feelings about membership in the Sigma Phi Society. Immediately after the Friday evening event, a panel of three alumni deliberated about the orations, scoring each on the basis of content, originality, and delivery. This year's winner was Andrew Root, V'12, and Andrew presented his speech again at the Banquet on Saturday night.)

Welcome, Brothers. I am elated to be here with you all: Brothers whom I have just met that I feel like I already know and those Sigs who I have yet to meet. This is truly the beauty of a National Convention: to be here with so many with whom I have a common bond. We have a shared experience, shared values and a shared ritual.

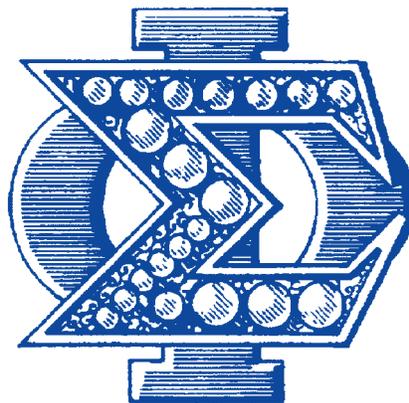
I spent this morning with 20 fellow actives and several good graduate brothers unpacking and examining our ritual service. My favorite part of the Sig ritual involves the reading of the Charge. As a neophyte, you hear those formidable words and readily agree to them, with only minimal consideration of the obligations they involve. To the last man, we agree wholeheartedly to live in the ways dictated by this secret document. But making a promise in that eager moment is certainly easier than managing the reality which sometimes comes down the road.

A year after I made my promises, I found myself living in violation of the Charge. The article I violated had to do with internal peace within Sigma Phi. The Charge advises that promoting such peace is critical to our collective happiness but warns that quarrels and arguments can divide even the best of friends. When this happens, the Charge calls upon those involved to bring disagreements before the Brotherhood for resolution.

I had a falling out with one of my pledge brothers, the cadre within our Society that I should be closest to. The worst part is that – to this day – I don't know why this happened. I didn't lie to him, or sleep with his girlfriend, or

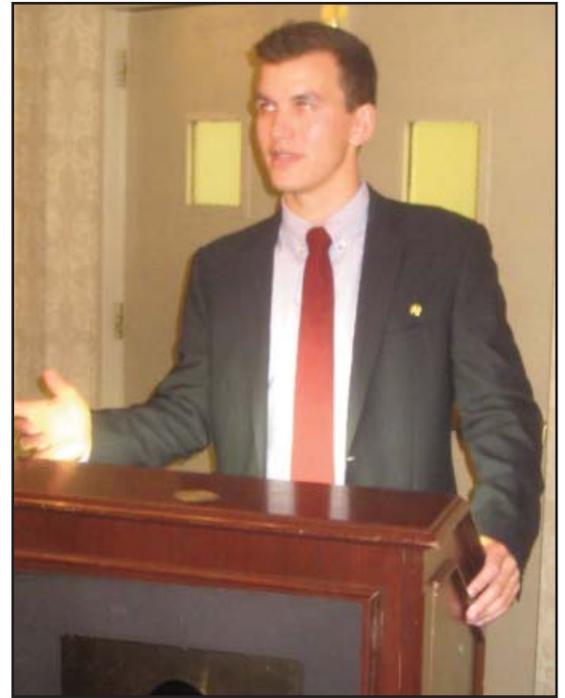
crash his car. So I did as I had sworn to do and brought the issue before the senior Brothers at Vermont. With wisdom far exceeding their years, they didn't hand down a direct verdict. Instead, they encouraged the two of us to take our egos out of the situation, to personally reflect and – above all else – to not give up on one another.

Around that same time, I found myself sitting in a chapel, much like the one we're in this evening. It was my cousin's wedding and I was thinking what I usually think at weddings: that pews were designed to be uncomfortable, that



blazers are too hot, and the neck ties must have been invented by sadists! I was pulled from my complaining reverie when I heard another cousin reading St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians:

"Love is patient. Love is kind. It



Andrew Root, V'12

does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, not is it self-seeking. It is not easily angered. It keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres."

Epiphany! I thought to myself: "That's strikingly similar to the oath we take on the night of our initiation." And while Scripture is quite a bit older than our Charge, like our Charge, it's timeless. It became clearer to me than ever in those unfraternal surroundings that our Charge guides us in our lives as Sigs and serves as the cornerstone of the culture we agree to be part of.

It's that tradition of unconditional Sig friendship that continues to draw new Sigs out of the woodwork year after year. In that key context, it's the Charge that makes us timeless.

So, Brothers, in the spirit of the timelessness and the gravity our ritual, I charge you once again to live within the Society's Charge ... and to **Never Give Up On Your Brothers.**

Thank you and Esto Perpetua. 

Meeting A Human Need

by John Paraskevopoulos, I'15 johngrayp@berkeley.edu

During pledgeship, Sigs-in-training learn about the loyalty and wisdom of Elihu Root, H'1860. One of the thoughts he shares in his famous 1935 address reads: "No human institution lives long unless it meets a human need."

I think about that sentence sometimes. And I see Brother Root's premise fitting our Society to a tee.

I see Sigma Phi as a very rare, "90/10 institution": 90 percent solution, 10 percent problem. That is to say, we could spend more than 10% of the time talking about the problems with the Greek system, but we don't. Instead, we spend 90% of our time setting an example for what it should be: its very potential as a human institution. In the process, Sigma Phi changes human lives for the better, and annually releases into the world her keepers and devotees. Those devotees – possessed of her wisdom, her charm, her sense of humor and love, and myriad friendships with like-minded, intelligent men – exert her beneficial influence on the world in silent, subtle ways for the remainder of their long lives.

As we grow and mature, we find ourselves in the world's void, grasping for something. The lucky among us fall into the lap of Sigma Phi, whose halls provide an unparalleled transformative space. Our life trajectories are shaped by her gravitational pull, and it is through her that we gain the remark-



Meeting a human need, age after age

able gift of entering the lives of others and enjoying the fruits of lifelong friendship.

She is more than a mere shaper of friendship, however. In fact, Sigma Phi is a powerful force, capable of beveling the rough and aimless edges of a young man into a fine prism, capable of refracting the energy of his surroundings into positive moral force. Shaped in such a way, the roughest stone becomes a jewel. Upon leaving the formative fraternal altar, that flesh-and-blood jewel enters the world and reflects the beauty of the Phi and her lessons wherever he goes.

Sigma Phi is Apollo's penetrating light, illuminating the black chasm

into which it is so easy for an undergraduate to find himself trapped. It enlarges his perspective, allowing him to better understand himself, and the nature of his relationships to his closest friends and family. It also emboldens him to engage the world around him. Through the critical lens Sigma Phi provides, a young man might eventually begin to recognize something greater than himself: something which informs him as a moral agent. In the world, the earnest Sig sows the seeds of hope, tills those fields with his sweat, and assumes personal responsibility for the well-being of himself, his brethren, and even the world ... as a grand, unified and timeless whole.

I don't mean to speak for Elihu Root, but I have every confidence my venerable Hamilton brother was convinced of these truths. Other brothers have likewise witnessed and believed in them in the many Sig generations since. In my short time at the Alpha of California, I take great satisfaction in knowing that, through Sigma Phi in particular, my human needs are being richly met. 



Brown Service Awards Presented in Utica

by Brendan McCurdy, H'80 *ofelixculpa@aol.com*

The David S. Brown Service Award is presented by the Standing and Advisory committee to brothers who have demonstrated a lifetime of devotion to the Society, particularly with regard to the chapter of their initiation, meriting special recognition. At the National convention held in Utica this past October, two brothers of Sigma Phi were so recognized for their dedication: Rand Carter, H'74, and Robert Randolph Gasque Fields, H'81. S&A Chairman Brendan McCurdy, H'80, was honored to present the award to these two brothers who have contributed so much of significance to the Beta of New York.

Rand Carter was (and remains) a Professor of Art History at Hamilton College when he received his bid in 1974. In our Society's history, it is unusual for one who is not an undergraduate to be given a pledge card. The active brothers must have discerned certain qualities in Professor Carter that caused them to make this exception; time has proven they chose wisely and well. All reports speak to Rand's extraordinary abilities as a neophyte: abilities that have well served the chapter and the Society for 40 years. Through the late 1970s and 1980s, Rand served as a chapter trustee. Perhaps more importantly, he fulfilled the role of faculty advisor: an essential liaison between the actives and college administrators during a period of increased scrutiny on the workings of our order by the outside world. His unflappable demeanor provided the perfect foil to the nattering nabobs who populated Buttrick Hall at the time. Above and beyond that role, Rand has ably fulfilled the crown jewel of our initiation, occupying the throne in an unbroken chain from Cromwell to Root to Rogers, exercising that responsibility in a manner befitting the solemnity and importance of the



Rand Carter, H'74 & Randy Fields, H'81, the Society's 2015 Brown Service Award Winners

occasion. Professor Carter continues to be the loadstone for the Beta's undergraduates, bringing them around to the essential elements of our brotherhood. He provides a steady hand and wise counsel, guiding alumni trustees in their deliberations. Rand is known to many throughout the Society as he has visited all of the active chapters save UNC and is a familiar presence at our national conventions. Brother Carter shared with the Chairman the news that, when Rand shuffles off this mortal coil, his final resting place will be on College Hill, fast by the plot of earth bearing the remains of Brother Elihu Root, H'1860, and Brother Melancthon Woolsey Stryker, H'1867. We do not wish to hasten that happy meeting on high but only note with quiet pride the fittingness of that location for our brother who has served the Beta so well.

R.R.G Fields – Randy, to all who know him – also came to the Beta via the path less traveled, being initiated in

1981 not as an undergraduate but instead an employee of the house. Fields arrived on College Hill in 1980 and found work as the Beta's cook. It did not take long for the actives to see that he possessed the attributes that define a Sig: strong character, good humor, work ethic, intelligence, empathy and fellowship. He possesses a strong singing voice and piano skills as well, and a bid was presented to him the following year. Randy proved a most able neophyte and was swung in great earnestness, overcoming a disruption by the local constabulary on the first night of the swing! Afterwards, he continued in his role as cook with added credentials as 'brother.' At that time, the Beta had an apartment adjacent to the kitchen in which Randy took residence. While living in the house over all the years up until the College's infamous Residential Life decision in 1998, Randy enjoyed a closeness to each succeeding class of actives that defies *(Continued on page 15)*

Being A Sig

by John Mason, S'55 jsm36@cox.net

What does being a Sig mean to a seventy-eight year old? Most of my brothers from sixty years ago at the then fledgling Alpha of Virginia see more of one another than I do. For them, questions like this are easy. Being a Sig means, as well it should, enjoying lifelong friendships with brothers that they see all the time.

Not so for me, alas. I was overseas for many years, lost contact, and have found it hard to stay in touch. I see brothers from back then occasionally, but not often.

In fact, the closest contact I have had since college was with Don Bazemore, S'54. Before he died, we were in daily touch by email, he being in Washington State and I near Washington, DC. An odd fact is that he was farther away from me there than anywhere I had been in Latin America. (To test this, you need a schoolroom globe. Trace the distances from DC to Bogotá and Central America, and then from DC to Seattle.) Nonetheless, to Don and me the daily contact made it seem like no distance at all.

He and I disagreed on a great many things. That's what our often contentious exchange was about. But we remained close friends. He and I shared a special bond – one that every Sig will understand – which mystified everyone else in that chat group.

Our Thrice Illustrious evokes what some today have in mind when they talk about a “moral compass.” That's an image I have difficulty with: imagining humans with some sort of gyroscope wedged between the gall bladder and the gizzard.

Rather than a bionic body part, what I think we do



John Mason, S'55

have, especially at college age, is a need for structure. By the time we've finished school and entered the adult world, many find it in codes of ethics such as honor, a sense of fair play, and sportsmanship. In particular, young adults form a pattern for relating to others, such as friends. There, I think, is where our Thrice Illustrious gives Sigs something special.

So the question becomes this: does that special something follow Sigs into later life?

A bad thing that happened to me overseas made me suspect that the answer is 'yes.' While I was in Spain for six years during the Reagan era, the New York corporation that I worked for was taken over by Wall Street high flyers of the Marvin Boesky sort. Eventually, they would lead my firm to ruin. As the flyers moved to take control, they contacted my business sources in Madrid, asking them to do business directly with New York, bypassing me. I heard about it from my local business sources. They told New York that they would keep doing business with me, as always, but not with *them*.

My first reaction was to start looking for another job. A year or so later, when I was comfortably settled into another career, it occurred to me that being a Sig might have had something to do with it. Those people in Madrid had not been just business contacts. Far more than that, quite plainly, they were loyal friends.

Business contacts come and go, but friendship like that does not erode over time. So I will form the question yet another way. “Brother, have you been a Sig all your life?”

“No,” I'll reply for myself, “not yet ...” **Esto perpetua!** 🌀

(Continued from page 14) comparison to any other brother in the bonds. How many trembling pledges first learned their Sig songs under Randy's tutelage? Or overcame their stage fright to take part in the choreographed dance that was made part of the celebration after the formal swing? Randy's advice and guidance have been welcomed and will be long remembered by many a Beta brother. While he now resides in Utica, a visit to his apartment is de rigueur for the undergraduates as he

provides good food and an historical perspective to the Beta's current doings. Over the years, Fields' culinary skills and organizational abilities enabled the Beta to fully celebrate March 4th festivities in the Long Room, witnessing strong alumni participation. Indeed, the Beta's alumni returned as much to visit with Fields as to see their other brothers!

Randy is perhaps unique in the Society for having served as host to four national conventions, undertaking with

gusto the myriad details and tasks that have felled lesser men. Robert Randolph Gasque Fields has exhibited a love for our Society that illuminates all that have the honor of his friendship and calls us all to the true Spirit of the Sigma Phi.

Congratulations, Rand and Randy, on caring about Sigma Phi in the way that you do. You do honor to the David S. Brown Service Award at the same time that it rightly honors you.

Esto Perpetua. 🌀

Epsilon Plans to Examine its Vision for the Next 100 Years

by Andre Jaeckle C'71 ajaeckle@eperformax.com

Following on the many challenges that have faced fraternities in general, questioning their values and even their relevance, the Board of Directors of the Epsilon has set up a sub-committee to plan for a retreat to examine the numerous evolving issues that support, connect, and corrupt the bonds and influence between a “top” House like the Epsilon with its current and past members, its University (Cornell, in this case), and the community as a whole.

The effort is partially a follow-up to a successful set of retreat meetings held in 2003 at the home of Jay Walker C'73. That milestone event considered similar issues and largely embarked the Epsilon on its first fundraising campaign, using retreat awareness and concerns as a launch platform.

At this point, the committee has worked through a number of elements to be included in an updated vision statement. Committee members are embarking on survey work to be distributed to the entire alumni group, which will be used as a basis for determining retreat issues and points of discussion. Several drafts of survey material have been prepared, but an early draft of points to consider prepared by Jeff Zilka C'73 presents truly challenging discussion points, matter-of-fact and ‘devil’s advocate’ alike:

On a scale of 1 to 9, where 1 is strongly disagree and 9 is strongly agree, to what extent to you disagree or agree with the following statements?

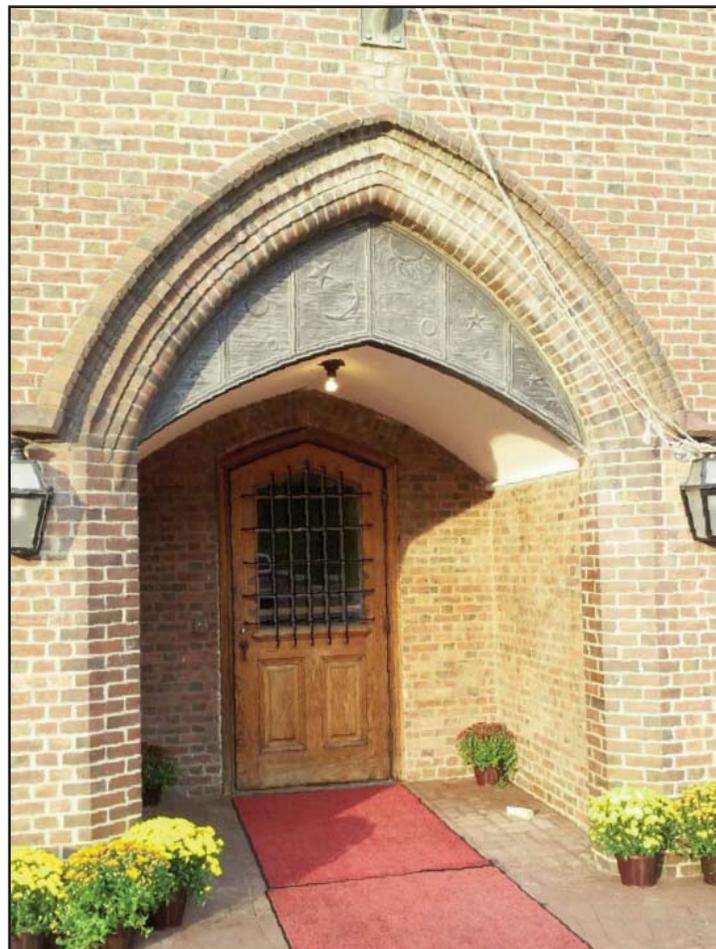
- “Friendship, love and truth” are relevant values and should continue to be core parts of the actives’ experiences at Sigma Phi
- Sigma Phi is a fine fraternity, but it is one of many at Cornell. We shouldn’t take ourselves that seriously
- Rush classes should average 10-12 rushees, in keeping with the physical capacity of the House
- The active chapter should strive for diversity among races, religion, social/economic class and Cornell’s undergraduate colleges

- There have been substantial changes at Cornell and in society overall, most notably the internet and social media. Given these, Sigma Phi needs to be more open to change
- Sigma Phi can go “dry” without fundamentally changing the character of the house
- Given social changes since the Epsilon chapter was formed, Sigma Phi would benefit from rushing women and becoming a co-educational society
- The house can be mostly sophomores and juniors living-in, with most seniors living-out in a Collegetown annex, without adversely affecting the character of the house
- I need to be able to visit One Forest Park Lane at any time and find the house in good order

On a scale of 1 to 9, where 1 is not important and 9 is extremely important, when you think of Sigma Phi today and in the future, how important do you think each of the following are to the chapter’s continued vitality?

- Strong bonds formed with a brother’s pledge class
- Strong bonds formed with all the brothers during the time the brother is an active
- Social activities at the house
- The house itself, i.e. One Forest Park Lane and its furnishings
- The meals taken at the house, including formal dinners
- Intramural athletics
- The rush process
- The initiation process, including meeting the fathers/meeting the parents following initiation
- Interactions/networking with alums

In short, the Epsilon will strive to carefully examine core thinking and issues related to its current and future position, role, and goals. We hope to make progress in this effort, engaging the best thinking of actives, active alums, and input from other chapters who care to share their thoughts. We expect our retreat to take place during the 2016 -17 academic year.



Welcome to the Epsilon of New York

2014 Sigma Phi Educational Foundation Annual Campaign Donor Recognition List

Appearing here is the list of donors to the Sigma Phi Educational Foundation's 2014 Annual Campaign. Giving by these Brothers is the cornerstone of our success. The donor list is presented by donor recognition club levels going from larger gifts to smaller gifts. Since earmarked gifts designated for a particular chapter's house acquisition or renovation are not part of SPEF's Annual Campaign, they are not included here.

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(\$500 +)

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For more information, contact SPEF President Jack Romaine, L'90 (jeromai1@yahoo.com).



News of INTEREST

“Went down to Lenox the other day to have lunch with **Jim Scala, H’48**,” advised **Tom Bleezarde, H’54** in July. “Thoroughly enjoyed that gentleman’s company ... again!”

tomjude@bleezarde.com

Ted Bosley, I’73, provides this update: “Sig brother **Scott Sinclair, I’74**, and I hiked 160 miles of John Muir Trail in August, raising funds for restoration of the Berkeley chapter house. Thanks to the many Sigs who contributed dollars-per-mile to renovate the main bathroom facilities, so Sig Bears at Cal won’t need to go in the woods as Scott and I did!”

bosley@usc.edu

In a July note, **Bob Dorse, U’50** advises: “The second edition of my autobiography – *Bob’s Tales* – was recently published on Amazon Kindle.”

rdorse@msn.com

We recently received this ‘quill from the eagle’ – “Still managing Downing & Company, providing financing to build housing for the frail & elderly. Also enjoy service to Lehigh University via serving as 1962’s Class President. Still active in tennis, golf and skiing but – after three falls – no more long distance biking!”

Bob Downing, L’59

bobdowning1@verizon.net

Dave Garden, L’48, writes: “I’m still in California, very much enjoying ripe old age. We have 5 children, 5 grandchildren and a great grandchild who turned 2 this October.” 2727 Sulphur Springs Ave, St. Helens, CA, 94575

John Goodreau, M’62, writes: “My first wife, Betsy, and I just celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary at the same hotel we honeymooned at in Quebec City half a century ago. We were married in Ann Arbor at St. Mary’s Church on 7 August, 1965.”

john.goodreau@me.com

We have this upbeat update from **Dave McKechnie, V’81**: “I’m celebrating 30 years as managing partner at Beauport Financial Services in Gloucester, MA. Apparently, good things like 30 year anniversaries come in twos, for I’ll celebrate 30 years of marriage to my Sig Sister Elaine next June!”

david@beauportfinancial.com

Intrepid mariner **Bob Mersereau, M’74**, writes: Sig Sister wife Donnell and I have been living on our sailboat since July of 2012. After leaving the Great Lakes via the Great Loop route in 2012, we have spent three great years migrating from the Bahamas in the winter to Boston & Maine in the summer. We will spend the looming winter in Florida and the Bahamas. In the summer of 2016, we’ll leave the boat somewhere on the East Coast so that we can spend the summer months back home in Grand Haven, MI.” mersereb@yahoo.com

Long a Horace Greeley disciple, **Scott Miller, F’73**, has at last “gone west.” After 21 years in Madison, Scott and his wife, Kathleen, have moved to San Diego. “Four of our children are in or done with college,” Scott wrote in August. “Our 10 year old moved with us. We don’t miss Wisconsin’s winters!” A lifelong Wisconsin fan, Scott has a hard time knowing his kids are studying/studying at Ohio State, Kentucky, Arizona and

the University of Washington....”

sknbhsj@aol.com

“Our oldest son, Ian,” writes **George Mercer, M’68**, “a graduate of Michigan State University, took on a temporary Price Waterhouse Cooper assignment in Ann Arbor this past summer. Needing a place to stay, he made arrangements to bunk at the Alpha of Michigan for a month. Can I declare a ‘quasi wandering bird’ event?” gmercerc@gmhllaw.com

“After 62 years practicing law, I retired July 31 of this year from the New York City offices of Holland & Knight, LLP.” writes **Bob Taisey, V’48**

robert.taisey@hkllaw.com

We have this update from **Dick Tyner, W’61**: “The Alpha of Massachusetts continues at Williams College by meeting annually there each fall. This year’s meeting was held on November 14 and – as is our gracious custom – dinner was served to all participants gratis. Season after season, all are welcome.”

jrtynermd@yahoo.com

Harry Willis, U’63, writes: “I am happily retired and still reside in Scotia, New York, very near the Alpha. I enjoy barber-shop singing and volunteer environmental activities. Sandy and I travel often, go kayaking and occasionally hiking. We also play ‘proud grandparents’ to five wonderful small kids!”

harryjwillis@gmail.com



Betsy and John Goodreau, M’62

Never Forget These Brothers

These deaths have been reported to the Society since publication of the July 2015 Sigma Phi Flame

C. Laurence Allen, H'39	Eastham Hockmeyer, H'51
Benjamin Reed Anthony, H'75	Marshall P. Hoke, C'35 6/19/2015
Richard C. Bagg, H'41	Frederick P. Jessup, H'38
John V. Bailey, H'50	John F. Juraschek, H'38
Richard V. Baldwin, H'42	Charles W. Knapp Jr., H'46
John S. Baymiller, S'61	Alexander M. Lankler, H'46
Richard Bither, M'56	Robert B. Lewis, H'46
Richard C. Block, G'56	Carl F. Mehlhop, M'46 8/15/2015
George L. Boveroux Jr., H'53	George W. Merck, H'37
Frank Ream Bradley, I'79	William H. Milton III, U'47 12/28/2009
Gary G. Briggs, H'67	Gordon A. Moore, I'44 5/18/2015
Atherton Bristol, H'42	John J. O'Neill Jr., H'47
Carlton M. Brown Jr., V'52	William N. Page Jr., H'47 5/31/2015
Robert F. Brunsell, F'42	John A. Pettett, H'58
Nicholas K. Burns, H'42	Frank V. Phelps, H'37
Theodore J. Burns, H'61	Charles W. Reeves, H'46
Gordon Burton, H'47	William M. S. Rhett, H'50
Alan M. Byington, V'59	James T. Rhind, H'41
Alger Chapman Jr., W'50	David E. Richenbacker, H'48
Timothy J. Downey, H'70	Lawrence H. Rouillard, H'49
Clarence A. Dunn Jr., H'50	William B. Saunders, H'50
J. William Ekegren Jr., C'41	Robert S. Scheu, H'39
James S. Finster, H'60	Andrew J. Schroder III, C'54 12/1/2014
Jonathan Frank, H'72	Richard C. Sharp, H'41
Edward T. Gaffney MD, H'54	William Sherman, H'42
Charles F. Graaskamp, H'52	Robert W. Smith, H'42
Garrett L. Greene, L'47	Willard H. Smith, H'35
William E. Hall, H'54	C. Kenneth Soper, H'35
Francis B. Hastings Jr., H'50	William D. Steers, C'74 4/10/2015
John M. Hastings Jr., H'41	Edward L. Strong, U'47 2/16/2015
Dudley F. Hawkes, H'55	Paul C. VanDyke, H'51
Rodney C. J. Hill, V'61	William C. Zahn, H'38
	Robert L. Zion, H'40



Pepperbox Convention in 2016

The Society's 2016 Convention returns to the Alpha of Alphas in Schenectady.
Reserve this weekend on your Sig calendar –

Thursday 6 – Sunday 9 October

– to return to Schenectady to celebrate the Thrice Illustrious.

Plans for this Sig celebration are being made jointly by S&A Delegate
Len Kagan, U'66, Cara Kagan, USS'78, and this year's HOH, Ben Mehle, U'14.

Sigma Phi FLAME

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Nominations Open for the Elihu Root Distinguished Sigma Phi and the David Brown Service 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, recognizes and honors Sigma Phi alumni for lifetime achievements reflecting Sigma Phi's values and bringing 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, Ken Dryden, C'66, 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 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 Fred Bloom, C'57, Ted Bosley, I'73, Wally Gates, V'50, Pete Harter, G'65, Calhoun L.H. Howard, S'54, Mike Imirie, M'69, Jim Jenkins, S'58, Rex Jones, F'72, George Mercer, M'68, Sam Moore, F'70, Steve Moore, V'41, and Doug Tudhope, V'47.

Formal nominations are due by 1 July and welcome sooner. Any individual or group may submit, 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 Society Awards Co-chairman Dan Neumann, F'71, who may also be contacted concerning additional details at dca120@sbcglobal.net or 120 Campbell Road, Trumbull, Connecticut 06611.



In the immediate aftermath of Convention 2015 in Utica, this circa-1926 postcard was spotted – and won – on eBay. It's a reminder in sepia of that vintage National Register of Historic Hotels designee, built in 1912, which served as the genteel venue for the meetings, workshops, meals and Sig celebrations which punctuated Convention 2015.

2016 MARCH 4 BANQUET RETURNS TO MANHATTAN ON FRIDAY, MARCH 4.