

Sigma Phi

FLAME

NUMBER 123 • SEPTEMBER 2014

ERIK D. SOHLBERG MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP



THE UNIVERSITY
of
WISCONSIN
MADISON

To honor and celebrate the life of our dear friend, we are proud to establish the

Erik D. Sohlberg Memorial Scholarship

to be awarded annually to a deserving student of the University of Wisconsin–Madison. It was at UW-Madison where we met Erik, whose cheerful and engaging personality and adventurous Badger spirit made an immediate and positive impact on all of us, one which only grew stronger during our college years. Erik truly appreciated how precious life is, and how friendship should be cherished and celebrated. We were then, and continue to be, inspired by his example. Through this permanent endowment, our hope is that the “Sohlberg Scholars” will be similarly inspired and able to take full advantage of all the University of Wisconsin has to offer, including a wealth of knowledge, a broader understanding of the world around us, and the opportunity to develop lifelong friendships.

Established 2013

Darin Buelow
Patrick O’Connell

Daniel Fernandez
Steven Peterson

Robert Heen
Rett Summerville

Mark Hoggatt
Gary Vieaux

See poignant Badger Sig story on page 5.

50 Years
at the Phi

1964



2014

907 Lincoln

Join Us In Ann Arbor for Convention 2014

Ann Arbor is beautiful in the fall, and the best time to be there is the weekend of 3-5 October when Sigma Phi holds its 2014 Annual Convention. Additional merriment and measure are expected as the Alpha of Michigan concurrently celebrates fifty years in its “new” Sigma Phi Place at 907 Lincoln under the banner of “Fifty Years at the Phi.”

See page 7 for more details.



From the Secretary:

'An Invitation'

by Nate House, H'09 nathaniel.bd.house@gmail.com

“**T**his is an invitation for life.” These words rang in my ears when I first heard them spoken by three friends and future brothers of the Sigma Phi Society. What occurred to me in that moment as a college sophomore, and again last weekend during a visit to the Alpha of New York, was that my ‘invitation for life’ would lead to ‘membership for life.’

My membership in the Society has always been a point of consideration for me: What role has Sigma Phi played in who I have become today? As an involved member – a “long run Sig” – what do I bring to my friends and brothers, to the chapter and to our Society at large?

Perhaps you’ve asked yourself such questions during your time in the bonds. Or, perhaps not. Once young men graduate, after all, and move on to busy worlds, our day-to-day Sig connections cease. For many, Sigma Phi recedes swiftly in the rear view mirror; it exists as a collection of fond memories and occasional correspondences with old friends.

For others, the Sig connection remains ever present. The term ‘lifelong membership’ is relevant to both cross sections, though. It invites an additional question: How do I want Sigma Phi to be present in my life at this moment?

As Secretary, I have the opportunity to keep my Sig connection alive more easily than most. I have found that nothing reinvigorates my Sig Spirit quite like a visit to a thriving active chapter. My recent journey to Schenectady from my Long Island home with my friend and 2014 David S. Brown Award recipient Len Kagan, U’66, was a case in point.

Len and I were first welcomed into the good company of the actives on a Wednesday night in late April at a delightful feast prepared by the Alpha’s long-time chef and Sig Sister, “Doc.” After dinner, we made our way to a certain gathering familiar only to brothers in the bonds, where dimensions of time and space have no place and where some of this Society’s greatest traditions are celebrated. The assembly adjourned after much mirth and hilarity, its members dispersing, leaving only spirited nocturnal conversationalists behind. I spent this time connecting with some of the newly initiated actives – Paul Dimeo, Ben Miele, Danny Zhang, Tom Moran, and Paul Philpott among them – before I finished the night sharing stories with some of the Alpha’s upperclassmen – Mike Williamson, Curtis Brewer & Garret Owens – as well as stalwart alumni Len Kagan U’66, Peter Smith, U’67, and Steve Schultz, U’68. The night was soon



Nate House, H'09

exhausted, and so was I. I had enjoyed a great visit, been made to feel quite at home, and been emphatically reminded of the vitality of my ongoing membership in the Thrice Illustrious.

Visiting an active chapter is only one approach to bringing the Sigma Phi experience to life anew. Each of us can reinvigorate this lifelong connection in his own way: visit a local chapter; contact your chapter’s alumni representatives to find out what you can do to be involved (The contact you make will be warmly welcomed!); make a gift to the Society; or perhaps attend the 2014 Convention in Ann Arbor this coming October 3-5.

However you choose to reconnect with the Sig flame that still burns within you (as it does within all of us), I recommend doing so with a sense of purpose. Consider how you have grown over time in relation to the Sigma Phi. Recognize all of the different phases of life you have experienced during your time in our Society. Understand that, for the best part of two centuries, Sigma Phi has had the uncanny ability to invite ... and to inspire Friendship, Love and Truth in the hearts of all of its members, young and old, distant and near.

EP.



KUDOS & THANKS ...



...to the following Sigs for their articles, information or encouragement supporting this issue of the ‘Flame’: James Bryant, C’58, David Farmer, H’89, John Morley, F’80, Jacob Morse, T’11, P. J. O’Connell, F’89, Dave Pauls, M’65, Jonathan Picarello, S’03, Narric Rome, V’91, Jack Taber, G’66 & Jarrod Thomas, S’05.

Your literary contributions, gentlemen, reflect well on you. They reflect well on your chapter. At the same time and more importantly, they surely make each issue of the ‘Flame’ more readable and more representative. For all of these good things, your editor offers earnest thanks to contributing Sigs.

If you have feedback, suggestions, photographs and/or Sig stories to share, please contact editor Mike Imirie, M’69 (mimirie@aol.com). Your thoughts, recollections and ruminations on ‘all things Sig’ are most welcome.

March S&A Meeting:

'A Fly On the Wall'

by Jonathan Picarello, S'03 jonathan.picarello@gmail.com

FAs the pace of our lives quickens, opportunities to rekindle involvement with Sigma Phi are not to be missed. Those actives and recent graduates who are reading this are especially lucky that Sigma Phi plays such a strong and central role in their lives. As years begin to roll by after graduation, the flame of Sigma Phi grows increasingly elusive. When the opportunity arose for me to represent the Alpha of Virginia at the 2014 meeting of the Standing & Advisory Committee, I jumped at the chance. I'd never before participated in one of the core, foundational activities of our national organization. Taking part would provide a 2-part opportunity: contributing to the ongoing narrative of our Society while catching a glimpse of its inner workings.

Mike Imirie, M'69, edits this publication and was in the conference room that morning. He wasted no time in approaching me, introducing himself and commissioning me to offer an outsider's impression of the S & A's deliberations that day. But first I needed to know what the S & A is, what it does, and what to expect from the meeting. Having served on the board of the Alpha of Virginia, I had a general idea of what to expect; we would review a budget, rehash business from the previous meeting and discuss future goals and challenges. Still, I was not entirely sure quite what I was walking into the morning of March 8th.

Virginia's longtime delegate to the S+A is Jon "Hogballs" Bergner, S'03. Jon and I arrived early at Manhattan's Strand Hotel, where we were greeted by General Secretary Nate House, H'09. Nate is affable and outgoing, demonstrating poise and maturity beyond his years. As delegates filed in to the conference room, the rare opportunity to congregate with old friends ... and to meet new Sigs ... had the irresistible effect that is so typical of the

gatherings of our Society.

By 9 A.M., the conference room was full and Chairman Brendan McCurdy, H'80, called the meeting to order. Brendan advanced the agenda strongly, pausing to facilitate discussion on select topics and facilitating votes where necessary. He maintained a delicate balance between moving the agenda forward and providing an open forum for the diversity of opinion that invariably occurs when two or more Sigs are in the same room!

Chief among the topics of discussion was the subject of undergraduate dues. The lean national budget is supported in large part by alumni and undergraduate dues, and some delegates observed that the collection of these dues is fundamentally important to the health of the national organization. Strong opinions on both sides of this topic were civilly advanced. While undergraduate chapter dues represent a small overall percentage of the national budget, it was unclear to me to what extent that budget should be supported by members with access to the fewest resources. By contrast, some members offered compelling reasons to more successfully instill a culture of contribution that would start with undergrads and continue throughout postgraduate life. Creating such a culture is an obvious benefit to the Society, but there is no "road map" for how best to achieve that goal. This particular topic seems to have spanned multiple meetings and we did not leave with a definitive sense of how to proceed. I was struck by how many of the arguments seemed to rely upon assumptions or assertions that were treated as implicit. Chief among these was the notion of a "value proposition," the benefit or service provided by the National S+A.

I pause to note that many S+A delegates are businessmen at the pinnacle of their fields, which explained some of

the corporate language I heard. As the conversation evolved, I heard things like "we have a clear value proposition," and "the national organization's contributions are many and obvious." Such points may have been obvious to delegates who have participated in the National for many years, but they were not immediately clear to me. I began to understand why Brother Imirie would have commissioned this "outsider's view." It is possible that you, too, have wondered, or – like me – had not even thought to ask about the tangible benefits the national organization provides? The discussion that followed helped demonstrate that value.

The national organization makes obvious logistical contributions. It organizes conventions and maintains regular communications through the website, mailings and this publication. It secures liability insurance for Sig chapters at a much lower premiums than any chapter could secure on its own. The Sigma Phi Educational Fund (SPEF) generously supports the Francis Viele Scholarship Trust, a generous annual opportunity for generations of deserving Sig scholars. SPEF also facilitates an array of educational and leadership activities among the chapters.

There are *(Continued on page 4)*

Sigma Phi

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www.sigmaphi.org

(Continues from Page 3) also the more qualitative contributions to the chapters: leadership, support, guidance and continuity. In my view, these ephemeral contributions, season after season, are perhaps the most valuable. If I may humbly offer a challenge to our national organization, it would involve focusing attention on better expressing and communicating guidance and support to the chapters. It's customary for S+A meetings to include chapter reports. Michael Phippen, V'98, delegate from the Alpha of Vermont, explained how his chapter was emerging from a period of crisis through a coordinated effort between actives, local and national alumni. (My own Alpha of Virginia has been navigating similarly difficult circumstances with regard to numbers and finances.) Led by Vice Chairman Moses Cesario I'89, the S&A took decisive action to support our fundraising effort to bridge the chapter's finances through a period of low membership. In my eyes, the action taken was an unmistakable demonstration that the national

stands behind its chapters.

The S&A's least tangible but perhaps most important contribution is supporting our values. For me, this was a new realization, for I had previously regarded continuity as less important than addressing concrete logistical and financial challenges. Wit and wisdom, after all, do not themselves maintain a chapter house. Still, the "human need" that this Society exists to fulfill is not payment of an electric bill.

At that evening's flagship banquet, we reconvened to honor Peter Smith, U'67, and Len Kagan, U'66, as David Brown Service Award honorees. I was struck anew at that gathering that Society continuity is of fundamental importance. Maintaining our Society is a difficult proposition, made more challenging by the fact that – each year – the Society's chapters are led by a new class of active brothers. Under such circumstances, institutional memory is at a premium! In addition to years of initiating new brothers of the Alpha of Alphas, Peter and Len - like many on the national board - carry with them

the institutional memory of a thriving Society. Retaining and communicating that memory is foundational to our success.

Strictly speaking, the Society is its members. To borrow again from the lexicon of business, our Society provides no tangible product, no physical output, no deliverable. The Society consists entirely of continued involvement by brothers who continue to care. The National helps to maintain continuity by facilitating conventions, 4th of March banquets, S+A meetings and other gatherings. In his remarks at the flagship banquet, Dr. Kagan invoked the memory of long-serving General Secretary Wink Mayer, L'10, observing: "Sigma Phi is ageless." A further challenge to the S+A would be to encourage and facilitate more gatherings like this that cut across chapters, ages and geographies. In so doing, the Society's formal leadership group - merely standing and advisory by design - can continue to help to ensure a lasting legacy for members of the Thrice Illustrious 



Suggestions for the resurgence of the Lehigh chapter are always welcome. Contact S&A Delegate Jack Romaine, L'90, with your thoughts: SigmaPhiLehigh@gmail.com

The Depths of Friendship

A Tribute to Erik Sohlberg, F'89

by P. J. O'Connell, F'89 pococonnell@nwmotion.com

Where to start? Erik Sohlberg, F'89, was my roommate for most of my days at UW and one of my best friends. Shortly after we graduated, he came down with unrelenting flu-like symptoms. Doctors discovered two malignant tumors in Erik's brain. He died a few weeks later. He was 24.

Erik entered the UW with a unique perspective on life. Unbeknownst to us, he had battled and beaten leukemia as a teen. Rather than belabor – or even acknowledge – that experience, Erik lived in the present in a very inspiring way. He was a man of action and savored the moments of each day. He moved confidently, deliberately and enthusiastically toward his future.

For many years after Erik's passing, seven friends and I (including Sigs Gary Vieaux, F'87, and Rett Summerville, F'89) who were close to Erik talked about establishing a scholarship to honor and celebrate his memory and the life lessons he taught us. Last year, we eight raised \$25,000 to create a permanent endowment for the Erik D. Sohlberg Memorial Scholarship. It's been a labor of love and we're very proud of the result. In April, all eight of us traveled to Minneapolis to meet with Erik's family and announce it to them.

The certificate we framed for his parents sums up why we did this:

"To honor and celebrate the life of our dear friend, we are proud to establish



Erik Sohlberg's family opening the framed plaque announcing the Sohlberg Scholarship.

the Erik D. Sohlberg Memorial Scholarship to be awarded annually to a deserving student of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. It was at UW-Madison where we met Erik, whose cheerful and engaging personality and adventurous Badger spirit made an immediate and positive impact on all of us, one which only grew stronger during our college years. Erik truly appreciated how precious life is, and how friendship should be cherished and celebrated. We were then, and continue to be, inspired by his example. Through this permanent endowment, our hope is that the 'Sohlberg Scholars' will be similarly inspired and able to take full advantage of all that the University of

Wisconsin has to offer, including a wealth of knowledge, a broader understanding of the world around us, and the opportunity to develop lifelong friendships."

Behind the Sigma Phi Place in Madison, there is a small garden with two flowering crab trees and a rock with a bronze memorial plaque dedicated to Erik. Bill Cohen, F'90, once wrote that, through this memorial, "the Brothers hope to share our feelings toward Erik with many generations of Sigs. We will never forget..."

That garden memorial and this new scholarship remind us in important ways of the enduring bonds of the Sigma Phi, in life and beyond...



Anyone wishing to make a tax-free contribution to this scholarship can do so by mailing your check to Erik D. Sohlberg Memorial Scholarship Fund #12817888, UW Foundation, US Bank Lockbox, P.O. Box 78807, Milwaukee, WI 53278-0807. Your gift to the Fund will be matched dollar for dollar by the UW Foundation until 2015 or until matching funds run out.

Short Run Active; Long Run Sig

by James Bryant, C'58 jebryant@frontier.com

After many years of receiving the Epsiloner newsletter from the Cornell chapter, I finally decided to check in. I was only an active Sigma Phi for a semester: the spring of 1958. My academic career at Cornell was less than outstanding, finishing my freshman year as a pre-med hopeful with a 69.9 average (I even flunked PE). My father sagely observed that it was cheaper to get lousy grades back home in Los Angeles, and that my returning to Cornell was not an option. My sophomore year was accordingly spent at Occidental College in Los Angeles, still nursing that pre-med dream. After an unhappy encounter with quantitative analysis in the fall semester, pre-med was over for me.

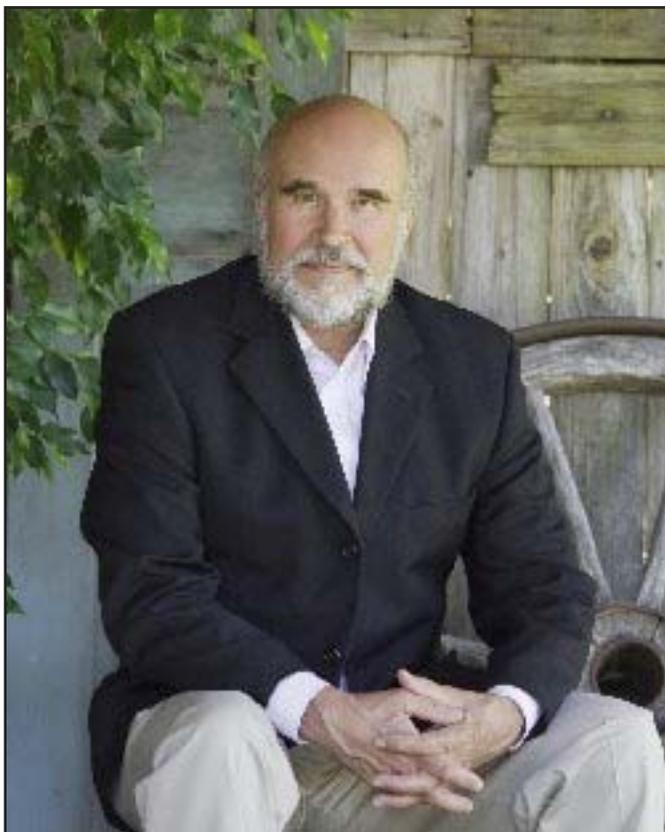
While my time at Sigma Phi was short, its influence was unexpectedly deep. The singular most influential aspect of Sigma Phi on me was found in the upperclassmen I came to know, particularly those who were majoring in architecture (Jay Labarthe, C'56, Frank Mead, C'56 & Barry Stallman, C'55). It was through those brothers that I discovered what turned out to be my life's work.

I went to my zoology professor at Occidental to seek counsel and to ask how I might make a decision to switch from pre-med to architecture. He said, "If you don't know what you want to do, I can't help you." That was the last time I sought out a faculty advisor!

In the spring of my sophomore year, I applied to the School of Architecture at the University of Southern California. The following fall, I began the five year program for a degree in architecture. I've never looked back. My decision to switch curricula was affirmed as soon as I discovered that half a day in a design lab went by in what seemed like five minutes....compared to comparable

time spent in a chemistry lab, which lasted an eternity.

I graduated in 1964 with a degree in architecture and went to work for my thesis professor who had a substantial practice in Los Angeles. A year later, I moved to Boulder, Colorado, where I



James Bryant, C'58

taught senior design in the architecture school as well as a course in Urban Environment in the Honors Department. Since graduation, I have put up some buildings, and that has been enough to generate a continuing practice.

During this time, I got married and divorced, a casualty of the late '60s and the women's lib movement. I passed the NCARB exam and was licensed in 1966, opening a practice shortly thereafter. In 1970, I resigned my post at the University of Colorado and embarked on a trip to Europe toting little more than a backpack and two cameras. That European junket led me around the

globe, visiting the world's historic architectural monuments.

I landed in Seattle in the spring of 1971, and I've been here ever since. I secured employment in a firm and became managing partner two years later. Being single and recovering from divorce, I tried "live fast, die young" for a while, but it didn't work out. Patty and I were married in 1976 and we have one married daughter.

In 2002, I earned a Masters Degree in Orthodox Christian Theology and was ordained in the Greek Orthodox Church. I am also certified as a mediator, do some work in the area of forensic architecture and construction, and continue to practice architecture at large. My life is busy and satisfying and I don't anticipate ever retiring. Ironically, I'm convinced that if I had succeeded in my early career goal and become a brain surgeon, my career would surely be over ... Without wanting to sound boastful, I now claim to be the most famous unknown architect in the Puget Sound area ...

Over the years, I have run into pledge brothers Steve Price, C'58, in Aspen (early '70s) and Tom Watson, C'58 (late '70s). I see that pledge brother General Drax Williams, C'58, has made his mark in the Marine Corps. He always had an aura of command about him. I remember Bob Dann, C'56, very fondly, too.

In short, while my time at Sigma Phi was fleeting, the formative impressions it made on me are with me still.



(More information about this Sig of many talents can be found at his website: www.jamesbryantarch.com)

2014 Convention in Ann Arbor



50 Years
at the Phi

1964



2014

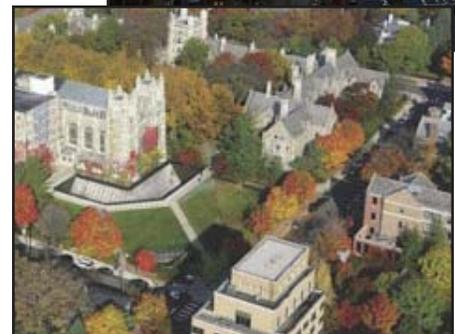
907 Lincoln

Convention 2014 takes place in Ann Arbor over the weekend of October 3-5. Additional merriment and measure are expected as the Alpha of Michigan concurrently celebrates fifty years in its “new” Sigma Phi Place at 907 Lincoln under the banner of “Fifty Years at the Phi.”

Convention Chair Jim Oshanski, M’75, has been hard at work making plans and securing space. Convention highlights are sure to include a catered barbecue at the Sigma Phi Place on Friday evening, the Annual Meeting of the Members at the Campus Inn on Saturday, and the Convention Banquet at the Michigan Union on Saturday night.

Details as to events and costs are available online at www.sigmaphi.org. Registration is taking place online, as well.

Contact your S&A Delegate or Convention Chair Jim Oshanski, M’75 (Joshanski@aol.com) with questions.



Throughout the Years, She Is There

by David Farmer, H'89 farmer_ostbahn@hotmail.com

Next to me on my home-office desk is a glass. On it is inscribed “Sigma Phi Society / 160th Convention at the Beta / Hamilton College / October 12, 1991.” It has some odds and ends in it: old business cards, a Kodachrome slide, my old membership card to the local soccer team’s fan club (Hamilton hockey fans from the ‘80s and early ‘90s know what that’s like!), and a little piece of slate.

The slate – a fragment from the old roof of the Beta of New York – is the enigma. It is the newest addition to my eclectic collection in the glass, yet it is certainly the oldest item.

It is. It’s a fun, physical keepsake of memories from my undergraduate days and occasionally returning to the Beta afterwards. It is also an integral part of a meandering story that is still being written...

After graduation, I visited the Beta maybe once or twice, passing through on the way to my family’s camp in the northern Adirondacks. Randy Fields, H’81, was there, as always. Patti - Randy’s larger-than-life Newfoundland - was also on hand. My sense of the Beta during those post-grad visits was enduring and permanent.

During such visits, the house was exactly as I remembered. It hadn’t been that long since I lived under its roof as an undergraduate, after all. My sophomore year room (“third floor, red hall, second door down”) faced north, across the parking lot and towards the tall spruce trees reminding me constantly of the Adirondacks. Two of the Beta’s “famous” bedrooms - the Valhalla Room and the H room - were there, as they



The Beta of New York, circa 1989

always had been, ready for the next year and the next generation of Sigs.

After a few more years, the College banned private housing and then seized and began “renovating” our Place for its own purposes.

“Be ready when you go there,” warned Brothers during the Society’s 2005 Convention at Utica. “The house is gutted. It’s a punch to the gut.” And so it was. Seeing the piano in the ruins represented to me the College’s final, perverse joke. The ruins of the Beta represented a stark contrast to the warmth and brotherhood we conventioners enjoyed at the Hotel Utica, our ersatz Sigma Phi Place.

It was during that convention weekend that I brought home a small piece of slate from the Beta’s roof that I found lying in a pile of debris. I picked it up off the ground for nostalgic reasons, thinking that 3-dimensional specimen would serve as a reminder that one should, “Never Forget the Brother.”

This entire preamble brings me to the most Significant event during my involvement with Sigma Phi. This event underscored just how powerful those core Societal words - “Never Forget the Brother” - really are.

In January 2011, I began to feel vague, flu-like malaise. My symptoms worsened, and I saw an MD. Tests yielded horrifying news: “You are going into liver failure [later to be traced to an autoimmune attack]. Get to the emergency room RIGHT NOW.” A week in the hospital stabilized me, but a downturn was ahead. A few days after discharge, I lapsed into a week-long coma. I awoke in the ICU uncertain, bewildered, confused, and frightened.

I was in the ICU for about a week. There isn’t much to do in such a place. You get woken up every so often to be checked, poked, prodded, and reminded that “you need your sleep.” The meds tasted awful. The buildup of fluid from my liver failing caused me to gain 100

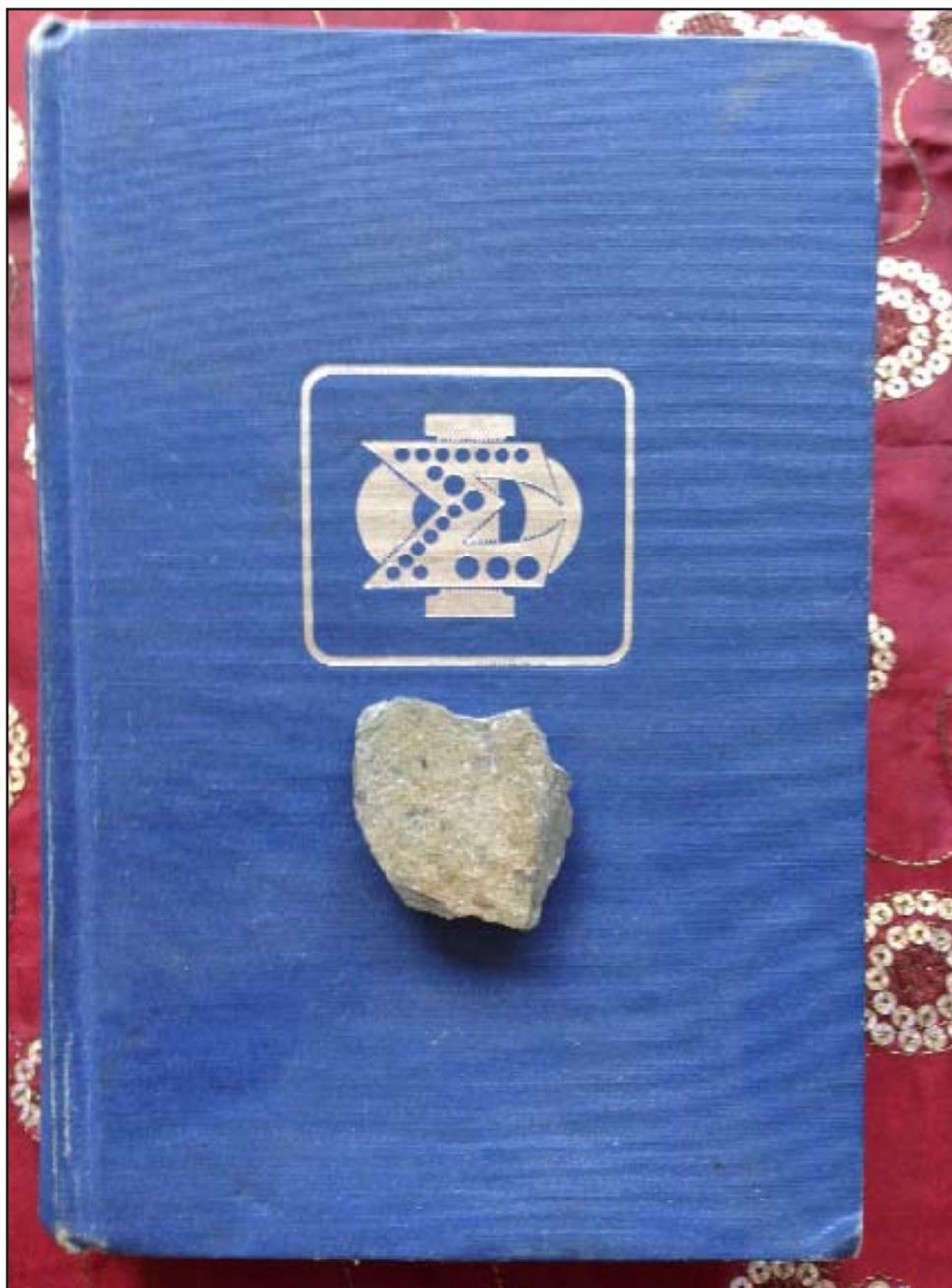
lbs of fluid. Things were stable...but grim. I needed a new liver to survive. Staff listed me as organ donor category 1A: priority. As I lay in my hospital bed, I vaguely remember hearing the siren of an occasional ambulance heading to the ER and wondering if that passenger was perhaps going to be "the one."

I couldn't concentrate or focus that well, but as cognition waxed and waned, I could at least check email. The first time I did, I was overwhelmed by what was there: myriad electronic expressions of "Never Forget[ting] the Brother"!

My in-basket was chock full of well wishes from fellow Brothers. (The Beta's robust e-mail grapevine - known as "Chiefs in Space" - is a wonderful Sig medium!) Well wishes, thoughts, positive vibes, all of it, many from names I had not heard in some years. Here I was, at the beginning of an ordeal that hadn't played out yet, but my strong, grateful sense of being the one whom the others didn't forget was overwhelming. The kindness expressed by the Sigs in those dark hours particularly still gives me pause today.

On February 18th, just after midnight, I received a new liver. (Now there is someone else I will never forget!) Recovery was very difficult at times. I struggled through post-transplant lymphoma, organ rejection and several bouts of neutropenia, where white blood cell counts drop precipitously. During this challenging time, I continued to receive wonderful, welcome Sig notes of concern and encouragement: "How are things?", "One day at a time.", "Stay strong, Brother!" and the like.

I moved the piece of the Beta's roof - my touchstone - out of the glass and placed it next to the keyboard in an honored position by my monitor. Here, I could see it more easily and even pick it up to reflect. I recognized the connection this little chunk of slate represented - not only my younger and healthier days, but to Sig generations before me, all of whom still share the unshakable bond of Brotherhood. Getting lost in the memories it symbolized was a pleasant - even



Caption

therapeutic - distraction from what was happening to me at the time.

Things slowly converged to a new normal. Life is definitely present. Health is present.

At some point, I returned my piece of the Beta's roof back to the glass next to me at my desk. Due to the paper storms which continually shape and reshape my desk, my Sig heirloom may not always be visible, but I always know it's there.

In my inbox, I have a folder called "Sig." All of my well wishes are saved

there. I've not gone back to revisit them yet. Just knowing that special folder is set safely aside suffices. The warmth of the kind words will be always there, an unmistakable reminder that the flame of the Sigma Phi burns brightly.

Time passes and I know eventually I'll be able to express properly just how much the support of fellow Sigs meant during my medical odyssey. While I'm not quite there yet, I'm unworried. You see, it is on my "Never Forget" list....

To be continued every day...
Esto perpetua

Generous Sigs Expand Foundation Activities

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

Through many generations, Sigs have made a habit of generous loyalty. This loyalty has enabled the Sigma Phi Educational Foundation (SPEF) to purposefully expand its activities in the past three years. SPEF's expanded projects support the Society's inherent supplementation of our host colleges' educational mission by applying classroom lessons for immediate and realistic use on campus. Through its Renaissance Program, SPEF is helping address persistent chapter challenges such as risk management, strategic planning and budgeting, career planning and new member marketing. Via Renaissance, those vital areas are becoming practical teaching and learning opportunities for Sig undergraduates.

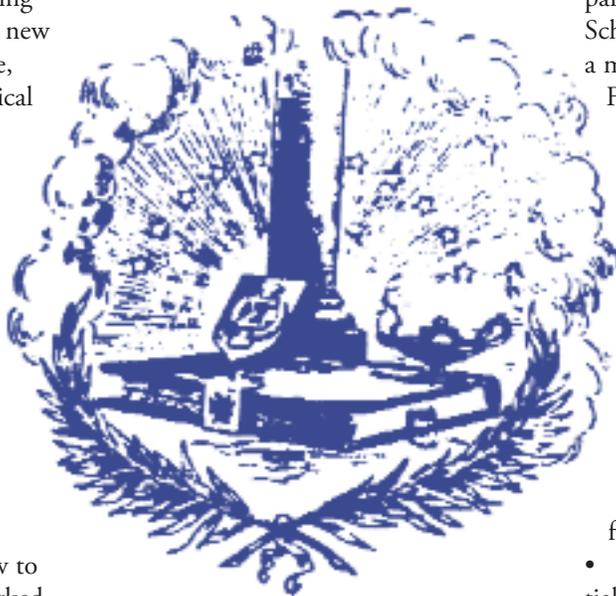
Such increased Foundation activity is yielding outstanding results. In the past three years, SPEF's educational efforts to teach effective group marketing at four of our chapters has resulted in veritable invigoration! This new approach started at the Alpha of California three years ago, when the Left Coast Sigs approached the Foundation to help fund engaging Phired Up! to teach the chapter how to more effectively market itself. It worked, with California's Thorsen House more full than it has been in years.

The next year, the Alpha of Wisconsin proposed using SPEF Renaissance Program Coordinator Scott McCrae, V'82, to teach the Phired Up! group marketing approach to its undergraduates. This effort produced the largest class in over 30 years at Wisconsin: 17 men!

Last year, the Alpha of Vermont decided to imitate Wisconsin's highly successful approach, with Brother McCrae again the lead instructor. Four undergraduate leaders earned SPEF fellowship grants to promote learning the new methods. Pursuing this educational effort for two semesters, the Vermont chapter, too, recruited one of the largest single year new member groups in its his-

tory.

In January of this year, the Charlottesville chapter faced imminent house closure after several successive years of very small pledge classes. The Alpha responded with a hybrid approach to rush, supplementing McCrae's instruction with assistance from key undergraduate leaders from our newest chapter, the Alpha of North Carolina. In this case, SPEF paid travel expenses of the undergraduate Tarheels who assisted. Having



been recruited themselves via Phired Up!, the North Carolina Sigs were particularly helpful. (The results in Chapel Hill have been extraordinary, for Sigma Phi is among the top fraternities at UNC, and the very top in academic performance.) Many Sig alumni from various chapters, including Society Chairman Brendan McCurdy, H'80, made short presentations at a career planning event in late January. The strange twist in this story is that, while the initial group recruited by Virginia in January was small, the new members were so excited by the prospect of being on the ground floor of a reinvigorated Sig chapter, they immediately went out themselves and brought in a large and diverse group using the same key personal

contact methods in February. Thus our Charlottesville Alpha has new life and will be fully operational for 2014-15 year.

In another Renaissance Program area, the Foundation is increasing its support for risk management training at our chapters, funding a yearly visit by an appropriately qualified risk evaluation/educator. The goal is simple: to bring to the forefront risk awareness and risk management strategies for undergraduates and alumni, alike.

Another new SPEF effort involves partnering with the Society and the Viele Scholarship Trust to create and maintain a much improved website. The Foundation needs an enhanced website for a number of reasons:

- Most member contact information updates come from the website, and that updating preference is sure to grow.
- Future soliciting and receiving gifts from Sig donors will increasingly be done via the website.
- The website will host a frequently updated Sigma Phi blog which will enrich our communications at the same time it aids SPEF fundraising.
- An improved website will give potential non-Sig donors (such as parents and matching donor corporations) a better understanding of SPEF's educational activities.
- Having a central document posting area will greatly increase the Foundation's efficiency.

As part of this effort, the three Sigma Phi national entities will share in funding a new paid position: Society webmaster. The webmaster will regularly update our website, which is designed to be an umbrella site for the entire Society. Unique sections are planned for each chapter, the Foundation and the Viele Scholarship Trust. Because this site will support areas for each chapter at no cost, it may lower costs for chapters which currently maintain their own websites. At the very least, the new Society website will link to all independently-maintained

chapter websites.

For many years since its establishment in 1985, the Foundation has pursued a number of educational efforts including:

- Sponsoring educational expenses at chapter houses including internet wi-fi wiring/equipment, libraries, study spaces, etc.
- Serving as a tax-deductible conduit for contributions from Sigma Phi Society members to bricks-and-mortar for educational portions of chapter houses. (exp: Alpha of California's Thorsen House historic restoration)
- Promoting undergraduate chapter/alumni communications by sponsoring annual newsletter awards (award plaques for undergraduate and alumni categories) for print and digital versions.
- Promoting chapter scholastics by sponsoring annual scholastic recognition

competition (cash awards to top performing and most improved chapters).

- Promoting individual undergraduate scholastic performance by paying for campus scholarship recognition membership and insignia (exp: Phi Beta Kappa key).
- Promoting undergraduates' public presence and speaking skills by sponsoring oratory events such as the Hicks Oratorical Contest held at the national convention each year with cash stipends to top performers.
- Funding undergraduate participation in the national undergraduate leadership workshop at conventions.
- Sponsoring awards for exemplary service to the larger community such as the Sigma Phi Society's highest honor, the Elihu Root Distinguished Sig Award.
- Sponsorship of alumni leadership recognition through the David Brown

Service Award.

- Sponsoring alumni leadership development through the Howard Fund.
- Funding educational and SPEF-related portion of the Flame.

The Sigma Phi Educational Foundation is especially happy to be able to find ways to more effectively support the Society as we fulfill our public educational purpose. We are proud that, since its very start in 1827, Sigma Phi has been an integral part of the educational mission of our host colleges.

Throughout those years, our Society has provided an intellectually supportive place in which to pursue scholarship as well as to put into practice the various ideals promoted by the college. Far beyond just 'four walls and a bunk', this broad purpose is who we are and who we have always been.

Esto Perpetua!

Property Taxes: Near Miss in Vermont State House

by *Narric Rome, V'91* narric@gmail.com

In March, a bill was approved by the Vermont Senate that would repeal the existing exemption of property taxes for fraternities and sororities. While there has been periodic discussion of such a repeal in recent decades, this is the closest the proposal has come to formal legislation.

A repeal of this exemption would have subjected Burlington's eight home-owning fraternities and sororities to \$160,000-\$200,000 in total annual property taxes - an amount that would certainly shutter many, if not all, of those houses. As the proposal didn't impact university property, UVM remained neutral. In early April, the legislation was considered by the Vermont House Ways & Means Committee. Committee members, including Burlington Representative (and UVM graduate) Kesha Ram, were visited by over a dozen representatives of the UVM Greek system, including Scott McCrae, V'82.

Vermonters and Greek members from across the country spoke out in opposition to such legislation. An Alpha Chi Omega Sister, for example, set up an opposing petition which was signed by



over 4500 people. Our Sigma Phi Corporation wrote formal letters to members of both legislative houses in Vermont outlining our view of the proposal's shortcomings.

Local media covered the issue, as well. The *Burlington Free Press*, WCAX and WPTZ filed reports about the legislation and its impact on a Greek system that has been a part of Vermont for 175 years.

Fortunately, lawmakers in the state's Ways and Means Committee decided to

remove the provision from the House subcommittee version of the legislation before it was finalized in late April.

The Sigma Phi Corporation and its Foundation watched these development very closely and coordinated advocacy efforts with the other Burlington fraternities and sororities. While the death of this specific legislation represents good news, no one is under the illusion that this is the last time that such an alarming tax discussion will take place in Vermont government.

Building a New Tradition in Charlottesville

by Jarrod Thomas, S'05 jat2f@virginia.edu

If you take a broad look at the nearly two centuries of Society history, you'll see that Sigma Phi has experienced highs as well as lows. In the worst of times, the doors of our beloved chapters – City College of New York, Princeton, Williams, Lehigh, etc. - have closed.

At the same time, some of our darkest hours gave rise to some of the greatest moments in Society storied history. Perhaps the most famous is Brother Nicholas Von Vranken Franchot, U'1871, who kept the candles burning in his chapter house although only he was there to light them. Dana Taplin, G'70, performed similarly resolute service to the Delta during his undergraduate days. Such actions serve to inspire ongoing efforts to rekindle the flame at Lehigh and to grow our youngest chapter at North Carolina. They also inspired the new start which has been very recently made

by home chapter in Charlottesville.

In early March, Virginia's Alumni Board was faced with a wrenching decision. The active chapter was at single digit membership. There were only a handful of leases to pay the utilities. The malaise which had characterized the last two years had reached a critical mass, and it seemed that the doors of the Alpha of Virginia would be forced to close. In fact, our situation was so bad and so apparent to the University at large that a number of other organizations had already inquired about leases for our chapter house. February rush had come and gone and only 4 new pledges were added. They were good men, but it plainly wasn't enough.

But then, when the hour seemed darkest, Sigma Phi spirit began to shine brightest. Recruitment didn't end at rush. The actives continued their efforts and alumni continued to provide support. The pledges were told to bring

their friends and the buzz on Grounds began to change. Wandering Birds with sons and daughters at Mr. Jefferson's University began to hear reports that something new was happening in the halls of the Sigma Phi.

Before too long these efforts bore fruit. On 13 April, fourteen young men were initiated into the first mysteries of our order. And what a group it is! The new members of the Alpha of Virginia represent the best and the brightest that UVA has, including a number of varsity athletes, some with Olympic aspirations. What is more impressive is their stated commitment to Sigma Phi. When asked why they wanted to join, their answer was heartening. These men want to build something special.

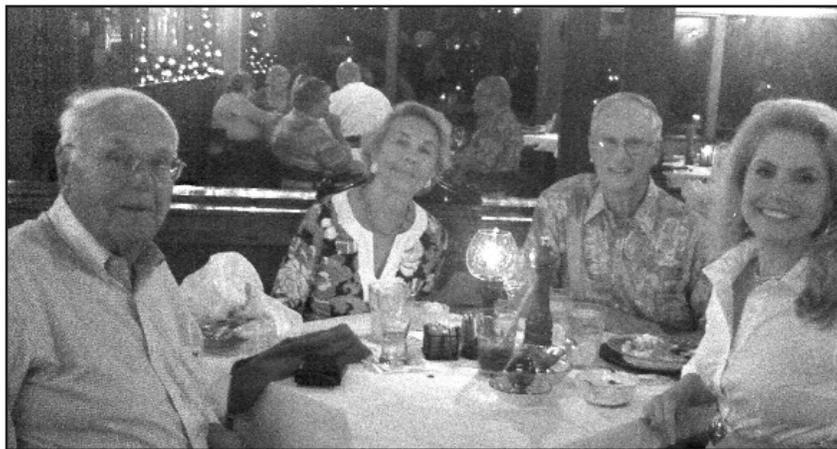
The recent events at the Alpha of Virginia seem to me to illustrate the extreme and extreme lows that characterize our Society over time. They also show me *(Continued at bottom page 13)*

In Praise of a Father

by Elizabeth Twohy

Sometimes, we are asked to describe ourselves. Other times, peers and friends of ours delight in telling the world about us. Occasionally, sons and daughters do so. Elizabeth Twohy is the daughter of Ed Twohy, S'55. In a May note to the Society's administrative office, she described her father....and his Sig relationship...in a voice which was very clear and proud.)

"My father, Edward M. Twohy, S'55, is a member of your chapter in Charlottesville. His 80th birthday will take place this October and I write to share a few appropriate words with the national office. My father and his long time Sig brother, Ralph Miller, S'54, still remain very close. They have lived in different cities their entire adult lives, but they have been there for each other all these years for strength, encouragement and fellowship in thought, word and deed. And the benefit of this relationship isn't limited just to my dad or to his friend. All of us Twohys have enjoyed 'Uncle Ralph' as another welcome member of our family. When that gentleman lost his bride of 50 years in 2013, it was the most natural thing in the world for us to ask



(L to R) Ralph Miller, S'54, Patricia Twohy, Ed Twohy, S'55 and Elizabeth Twohy enjoy an evening in Vero Beach.

him to join us on vacation. These are two of the finest men I have ever the privilege - the honor - of knowing. Their strong relationship over the years advertises the Greek system and, in particular, the strength of Sigma Phi's brotherhood ... very well."

"I'll share a final piece of Sig history via the Twohy family. My mother, Patricia Williams Twohy of Sweet Briar College, was very probably the first Sig Sister to be initiated at the chapter in Charlottesville!"

Elegant Sig Sistering in Manhattan

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

In our Society, a Sig Sistering is a tender, occasional complement to the membership earned by Sig brothers.

While there are limited circumstances under which a brother may make a second Sig Sister over time, we encourage Sigs that it's a once-in-a-lifetime event so as to make it a very thoughtful and earnest occasion.

One of the most singular and elegant Sig Sisterings ever...took place just ahead of this year's March Fourth Banquet in New York City. It represented the desire and the handiwork of Derek Fredrickson, V'94, who has been involved in Sig leadership for years and who currently serves as Society Treasurer. Just as significantly, it involved a Sig brother going to bat for another brother in a most unusual way.

Derek and Fabienne have been married since 2002. (Fabienne has Greek roots, too. She's a UVM Pi Phi.) Both are professionals. They have three children and make their home in Stamford, Connecticut. Their lives are busy, satisfying and filled with love. It was the most natural thing in the world for Derek to want to make Fabienne a Sig Sister. There was a problem, however. Derek had had a Sig Sister in college, you see. And the Alpha of Vermont is among the Society's most tradition-driven chapters. Derek knew that he wouldn't be encouraged to make a Sig Sister a second time.

Enter Rick Bingham, V'87. Rick,



(l to r) Rick Bingham, V'87, Fabienne Fredrickson, VSS'14 & Derek Fredrickson, V'94

who is single, is a long time, close friend of the couple in addition to being another lifelong, committed Sig. "I could make Fabienne a Sig Sister for you, Derek," he offered.



And that's exactly how it worked out. In a small ceremony in an upper room at Manhattan's One West Club – the site of the Society's 2014 Flagship

Banquet - Rick made Fabienne a Sig Sister. The ceremony was officiated by Mike Imirie, M'69, and Alexandra Millar, HSS'09, and attended by 14 banquet-going brothers and Kara Kagan, a Sig Sister from Union and the wife of Len Kagan, U'66. (Len was on hand, as well.) After the ritual portion of the Sistering was complete, Alexandra walked Fabienne around the circle for congratulations from attending brothers, ending up – of course! - in front of Derek.

The room was bedecked with fresh flowers and Brother Fredrickson had also arranged for Veuve Clicquot to be served to all attendees. More obvious and thoughtful even than these devices was the 'device of the heart' which drove Derek's special Sig event in Manhattan.

(Continued from top page 12) just how fragile our chapter really are. During the dark days when our chapter had reached its low point, we repeatedly diagnosed one core cause: an increasing lack of involvement by active and alumni members, alike.

The next era for the Alpha of Virginia will be defined by these new initiates, but that does not mean that we alumni can take a step back. Sig chapters

thrive when there is a strong spirit of support, cooperation and brotherhood among all brothers spanning all generations. I believe that our Society is by and for the actives, but – in the Sig scope of things - our time as actives is woefully short. There's a lot to lose when the makeup of a house completely changes every three years, yet a lot of what makes our Society beautiful is the traditions and history which span centuries. It's

this history...and an awareness of our traditions....which are best preserved by continued alumni participation.

It's too early to say what the coming years will hold for the Alpha of Virginia, or for Lehigh, or for North Carolina or for the rest of our chapters. One thing seems clear; our chapters are working to build a stronger future and a new tradition. I, for one, feel lucky to be a part of it. I'm excited to see what's next!

When An Irresistible Force Meets An Immovable Object ...

by Jack Taber, G'66 jack.taber@sau41.org

It was the deep fall of 1966 at the Delta of New York. Our dining room operated under the able stewardship of Sean Smith Butler, G'62, and his magical professional chef, Carl.

On the verge of a much-needed good night of sleep there arose an atypical commotion which came from the front of the House. Being the loyal brother that I was, I arose from my 3rd floor attic bedroom ('the Heaven', in Delta parlance) and carted myself down to the breezeway to see what was happening.

Oh my! One of the brother's late night runs to nearby Keuka College, where the Finger Lakes' leading ladies pursued higher education, had made unexpected metal-to-fur contact. I believe the driver was none other than the late Louis 'Hoagy' Carmichael, G'66, and it was clear that his VW bug would never be the same.

It was also clear that, quite unexpectedly, the Delta was in possession of a large, white tail deer. Despite the late hour, the Sigs took turns admiring the recently-deceased animal in great amazement. Then, someone looked at me and said: "You're from New Hampshire. Jack. Let's dress this deer and get it over to our grocery supplier for packaging."

My brothers gave me far more credit than I deserved. My 'skill' at dressing out deer amounted to nothing more than having watched relatives and neighbors in Lebanon, NH, as a kid. But if Sigma Phi teaches us anything, she teaches us boldness!

I knew that you had to be very careful with a female deer. I found the proper boots, got a tub and hooked up the hose.



Using a stout clothesline, we were able to hang up the deer and then my neophyte butchering began. It got cold that Geneva night, but the work was actually aided by temperatures which dropped to freezing. In the morning, Brother Butler arranged for the grocer to process the carcass completely and package the finer cuts.

In the days ahead, good chef Carl and the house steward skillfully worked fresh venison - and lots of it - into the Delta's menu. While I thought the culinary results were agreeable, I remember very clearly some startled looks in the dining room when my fellow brothers realized where those oh-so-fresh venison roasts and ground venison patties had come from!

(This was the one and only deer I ever dressed....)



Handsome Badger Sigs Apres-Skiing During Salt Lake City Slopes Reunion this past February.

Advise long time participant John Morley, F'80: "This is our 12th year in a row and it keeps getting bigger each year. We alternate between Utah and Colorado and have hit about every hill in the two states. It's one of the high points of my year - no doubt!" (L to R) Curt Nelson F'75, Sam Moore F'70, Marshall Solem F'79, John Morley F'80, Mike Reiels F'80, John Hall F'76, Jim Behrend F'76, Fred Lamont F'72, Eric Killingstad F'78, Ron Ipson F'77 & Rex Jones F'72.
john.b.morley@gmail.com

Tarheel Sigs On the Move

Some might say that the Society's newest chapter is a study in motion. Here's what this year's Sig UNC graduates are doing next.

Michael Hardison, T'11, will move to Newport, Rhode Island, to attend Officer Candidate School for the United States Navy. Upon graduation in October and earning his officer's commission, Hardison will attend the Navy's Flight School in Pensacola, Florida.

After delivering the Department of Public Policy's student commencement address, **Jacob Morse, T'11**, of Mooresville, NC will enroll in the class of 2017 at Campbell University's School of Law in downtown Raleigh, North Carolina. Jacob will begin as the first-ever recipient of the law school's Leadership Scholar Award, a full-tuition scholarship awarded annually to someone with "demonstrated leadership skills and the potential to become a leader in the law." At this point, Jacob thinks he wants to pursue a career in criminal law, but knows how naïve it would be for him to say that he has made up his mind in full.

Kayacan (Kaya) Lordoglu, T'12, of Istanbul, Turkey, will graduate with a BS in Computer Engineering and Economics. In the fall, he will trek up to the Big Apple to begin working as a management consultant for Ernst & Young.

Troy C. Homesley, T'11, will be graduating with Honors and Distinction as a Political Science major and Philosophy minor. He will be attending law school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill or Iowa University in the fall of 2014.

Following a six-week training course out in San Francisco, California, **Tal Havivi, T'11**, will make the long-haul move to Boston, MA, where he will join Oracle's Direct Sales Program full-time in June. In his free time, he plans to learn to play the harmonica and learn the culinary art of Hibachi.

Patrick Gray, T'11, will be moving out to the California Bay area to work with a small aerospace start-up called Moon Express. At MoonEx, Patrick will



(l to r) Patrick Gray, T'11, Kishore Kalagnanam, T'11, Tal Havivi, T'11, Rahul Lakhwani, T'11, Chris Felix, T'11, Jacob Morse, T'11

be working as a software engineer on the company's lunar lander team aiding in their effort to win the Google Lunar X Prize competition by December 2015. Patrick hopes to concurrently gain his Masters Degree in Electrical Engineering and looks forward to exploring what the West Coast has to offer.

Rahul Lakhwani, T'11, graduated in December 2013 and walked with the Class of 2014 this past May. During his semester off, Rahul stayed on campus in Chapel Hill, remaining actively involved with on-campus organizations including the Alpha of NC. In the fall, Rahul will begin work full-time in New York City as a Business Analyst in Deloitte's strategy and operations consulting practice. He hopes to continue learning and growing as an individual and professional.

Max Nagle, T'11, will attend the University of North Carolina School of Medicine in the fall. Please let him know if you will be in the area at any point, as study breaks with Sigswill be more than welcome.

Following graduation in May (BA, Economics), **Aaron Lutkowitz, T'11**, will move to Washington D.C. to work for a data analytics firm in the retail sector. In addition to his work, the Nashville native looks forward to happy hours, beltway brunches, and sangria in the park."

Christopher Felix, T'11, from Uniontown, PA, will be working at a triangle-based startup after graduation. Based in Durham, NC, Vivisum Partners LLC uses market research to consult for pharmaceutical and financial services companies. Only a stone's throw from Chapel Hill, Chris will be working as an associate or as Vivisum describes it, "an engine that drives our projects."

Christy Lambden, T'11, of Shepton Mallet, Somerset, England, will be remaining on this side of the pond, working at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as one of three members of the inaugural class of Chancellor's fellows. The one-year fellowship aims to provide recent graduates with a close-and-personal experience of higher education management by aligning them to work directly for leaders of the University including the Chancellor and various Vice Chancellors from areas across the campus.

Sakibul Huq, T'11, is graduating from UNC with a BS in Biology and minors in Business Administration and Chemistry. He will be living in Washington, D.C., but jet setting as an Analyst with Huron Consulting Group's Healthcare practice. He aspires to be a physician leader engaged in the delivery, policy, and business aspects of healthcare.



News of INTEREST

We have a “Quill from the (Norwegian) Eagle” via **Nils Apeland, F'94**: “I recently celebrated the 3 year anniversary of my own PR Consultancy, ‘Better Communication.’ After running a larger agency for almost 17 years with my brother, I now operate on my own, serving clients in many sectors with media strategy, analysis, reputation and crisis management. I also teach PR at Oslo School of Management. It is good to keep in touch with Sig brothers online, but even better in real life – so make sure to contact me if you happen to be in Oslo. Skål!”

nils@bedrekom.no

Steven Bengis, C'65, founded NEARI - the Northeast Education, Assessment and Research Institute - with his wife Dr. Penny Cuninggim in 1986. In all the years since, that nonprofit school in Holyoke, MA, has been providing special education services to extremely complex students aged 7-22. The kind of instruction NEARI provides represents a narrative shift for education. It's not about more time on teaching, the present educational paradigm. It's about time on learning: how much students can learn when they have immediate access to teaching. With a strong focus on student-centered learning and positive outcomes, Bengis proudly observes that NEARI is helping to lead the way to better learning results for special education students and mainstream students, alike. Visit this website - www.nearischool.org – for more information about NEARI.

sbengis@neari.com

“With both kids off to college, it's time to downsize,” advises **Ted Bosley, I'73**, who has recently relocated within Pasadena's bucolic city limits. “Please let me know if you're visiting the L.A. area and would like to tour the Gamble House.” bosley@usc.edu



Tom Cranmer

Thomas W. Cranmer, M'69, was chosen as Michigan Lawyers Weekly's 2014 Lawyer of the Year. Cranmer, a long time litigator specializing in white collar criminal cases, was chosen by a vote of his peers. To be selected, leaders showed a high level of success in the legal profession, a passion for the law and service to clients and the community, and a record of achievements displaying strength of character and ability to be a leader in Michigan's law community.

I've been with Iron Mountain Information Management Services in Europe for almost four years,” writes **Paul Doody, L'83**, “leading sales and marketing. Last fall, made a big personal move and located from Brussels to Vienna to be with my long distance girlfriend, Gabi. Literally, as I was unpacking my cartons in Vienna, I got the news that I was being promoted to global head of marketing for the company. Great news, to be sure, but I will need to relocate again ... this time to Boston. First time ever for me I'll be working from a US address!”

paul.doody@gmail.com

Craig Garrett, F'67, is happy to report that his wife, Roylene, has finally joined him in retirement as of July. The long time sweethearts and worker bees

(Craig in communications and Roylene as a registered nurse) will soon celebrate her retirement along with their 40th wedding anniversary at a resort in Door County, Wisconsin.

craigroylene@earthlink.net



Chase Knight, C'07 and Kirsten Barr

Cyrus Gentry, C'07, shares glad tidings about a Sig peer. “**Chase Knight, C'06**, married fellow Cornellian Kirsten Barr in Brooklyn Heights on 6 December 2013. Two stellar Sigs (**Christopher Bartels, C'06**, & **Alex Wolff, C'05**) served in the wedding party and many more Sigs were on hand including **German Posada, C'06**, **Brennan Lowry, C'06**, **Josh Weissenstein, C'05**, yours truly and **Don Hastings, C'06**. Chase is currently a District Sales Manager in New York City for Abbott Nutrition while Kirsten works in District Recruitment & Talent at Macy's.” cyrus.gentry@gmail.com

Rick Guior L'79, refuses to let a looming empty nest syndrome in Summit, NJ, blunt his love for life. “Our second child will soon start his freshman year at Tulane, while our daughter is heading into her senior year at Cornell. Once the house is empty, Barbara and I will split our time between Manhattan, Saratoga Springs and New York's Adirondack Mountains. After 15 years with Medco Solutions, I left to follow my passion for thorough-

bred horse racing. I soon discovered that working in racing isn't nearly as much fun as playing the horses! At some point soon, I plan to write a travel book - and develop a supporting application - about American racetracks. I stay in touch with Lehigh Sigs **Bob Immer, L'80, John Burchfield, L'79, and Tony Gentile, L'78.**
rickguior@gmail.com

We have this update from **Dave Hamm, M'65:** "In January I retired from my Grand Rapids rheumatology practice after 34 years, the last three of which were affiliated with Spectrum Health. I am now finding more time and energy for my hobbies - gardening and model railroading - as well as volunteering at the Frederik Meijer Gardens in G.R. Retirement also permitted my wife Beth and me to spend the month of March in Florida, and later this year we'll tour France and Italy with a U-M group."
hamm2@msu.edu

Jack Harned, F'51, proudly advises: "I journeyed to Charlottesville, VA, on 27 April to share the induction of my granddaughter, Annaliesa Routh, into Phi Beta Kappa - two generations after my own at the University of Wisconsin in 1954."
jrh647@aol.com

"Hey!", writes **Dave Hyman, H'09.** "This summer, I will be moving back east to Buffalo, NY, to pursue a Ph.D in Volcanology at the University of Buffalo. For the past year, I've been teaching math here in Seattle, but I yearn to be back in the research sciences." Asked if he's a little cautious about moving upstate New York in the aftermath of the worst winter in years, Dave replies: "I'm respectful of New York's frigid winter nights, but I hope to fill them with hilarity, mirth and the company of Sig brethren willing to brave I-90 to visit."
dave.m.hyman@gmail.com

Fellow Leo follower **Larry Ikard, H'89,** shares this "on the run" update: "I was privileged to run the Boston Marathon again this year. Unfortunately, I made it through about 18.5 miles on Monday and then had to pull out for medical rea-

sons. It was a real disappointment; the 2014 running of the Boston Marathon was particularly special and spirited, and I was only 7.7 miles away from the finish line on Boylston Street. I've already planned by redemption marathon - the Pocono Marathon - and will be running the Chicago and Marine Corps marathons this fall. Boston is the big one, of course, and it's my firm plan to be back there toeing the starting line in Hopkinton next April!"
likard@gmail.com

Andrew Jackson, F'72, has spent the last year as a mechanical engineer designing cheese processing equipment for Johnson Industries International, Inc. He and his wife, Barbie Stimpson, can be found during the summer anchored somewhere among the 30,000 islands of the North Channel of Lake Huron. (Your editor gratefully remembers being a guest on the Jacksons' boat on Lake Mendota during the 2008 National Convention held in Madison.)
aoj652@gmail.com



Jake Kramer

Jake Kramer, C'98, shares good news from the practice of law in Washington DC. "I am pleased to report that I have been elected to the partnership at Bryan Cave LLP, where I focus on litigating antitrust matters and complex commercial disputes." Jake has been with Bryan Cave since 2004, when he earned his JD from George Washington University.
jacob.kramer@gmail.com

Evan Krueger, F'04, recently matched to the Neurosurgery Residency at BroMenn Hospital in Bloomington at Normal, Illinois.
evan.m.krueger@gmail.com

This early May musical update comes from **David Lefkowitz, C'83:** "I will have a new CD released in early June." This release is hardly a first foray for this talented composer and UCLA music theory professor. In fact, it's CD #3! Here are the details: Harp's Desire: The Harp Music of David S. Lefkowitz (Albany Records. Albany 1499). A CD Release Party took place in Los Angeles the weekend of 7 June.
lefko@ucla.edu

Some wandering birds are particularly adept at wandering, as this update from **John Machulski, L'84,** will attest: "We have lived in Singapore since 2007, and I am working for GE Healthcare. Our plan is to stay out here until our kids are all off to college, which will be three more years. My oldest just shunned Lehigh in favor of Syracuse and will start there in August. We get back to the US for several weeks each summer and typically manage to see at least a few Sigs, although I always seem to miss the big reunions. Any and all wandering birds are encouraged to reach out to me if you find yourself on the "island city-state."
John.machulski@ge.com



Rusty McKay

In June, **Rusty McKay, H'60**, was honored by Fairbanks Hospital of Indianapolis. McKay earned the Hospital's prestigious "Circle of Hope" award for his outstanding contributions to research, education and treatment of drug and alcohol addiction. Rusty serves on the Fairbanks board and is an executive career mentor with Butler University's College of Business.

Elrojogrande42@comcast.net

We have this news from **Hamp Miller, F'55**: "Sue and I have lived in San Luis Obispo, CA, for the past 17 years after retiring from Johnson & Johnson with 35 years of service. I just celebrated 57 happy years of marriage to my Sig Sister wife, a Tri-Delt. We have one daughter and three boys. The boys are all Eagle Scouts. Two of our grandsons are, as well ... and a third is working on his Eagle project. I chair an annual charity foreign car show to benefit local youth and continue to be very active in the Porsche Club of America. At present, there's a racing yellow 2014 Cayman S in my garage. In other years, that same garage hosted a '65 356C coupe and an '85 911 Carrera."

hampmiller2charter.net



Ethan Milner

This Left Coast news comes from **Ethan Milner, M'04**: "After many wonderful years living in the warm vicinity of our Michigan Alpha, I now make my home in Eugene, OR, with an eye on moving to Portland in September. I work as a therapist at a day-treatment school for children with severe emotional

disabilities, and will continue similar work in Portland. I'm engaged to a wonderful, talented woman named Lauren, who has nearly finished her MFA in Creative Writing at the University of Oregon's prestigious Creative Writing Program. (I have slowly forgiven her for introducing Duck jargon and affection into our previously pure-Wolverine household...) Our long-term plan is for Lauren to write the next Hunger Games, and I'll work security. Hopefully the many and varied lessons I learned during my Swing will be training enough!"

ethanm56@gmail.com

Art Neudek, F'75, reports two milestone events this year. "First, my wife and I have 'changed bays' from Massachusetts to San Francisco, hoping to make acquaintances with Brothers from the Alpha of California. I am "living the dream" in SF, producing real estate software, playing golf, fly fishing, and driving an electric car! Second, the Alpha of Wisconsin will have one more Sig sister in the making with my daughter enrolling at UW in the fall." Art swears, brothers, that he had no direct influence on daughter Alexandra's decision.

ncart65@aol.com

In a July note, **Lucas Ortega, M'90**, writes: "My wife, Shanie, and I bought a beautiful duplex condo in Clinton Hill, Brooklyn, and we are enjoying the 17 month birthday of our daughter, Alexis."

lucasortega@rocketmail.com

New initiate **Mac Porter, M'14**, from Austin, Texas, brought a 'small world' coincidence with him. "I found out recently from a former high school friend who now goes to Cornell that our high school math teacher is a Sigma Phi who graduated from Cornell: Chris Mabley, C'62. I was especially excited to learn this because I thought my life in Austin, Texas, would be disconnected from Sigma Phi because there are no chapters in that area of the country. However, learning about Mr. Mabley's 'secret identity' made me appreciate how much of a national organization Sigma Phi is."

macport@umich.edu

"After over a decade in the Bay Area and a few in Colorado, life has landed us in Atlanta for the foreseeable future," advises **Marshall Norseng, F'93**. "Aimee and I don't get back often to Madison nearly enough but our seven year old twin boys are already devoted Badger fans."

mnorseng@gmail.com

This news comes from the Society's 'Living the Good Life' Department via **Rich Saari, F'54**: "I am fully retired living in Jupiter, FL, from October through April and spending summers in Cape May Point, NJ, with my lovely wife Marge, a Wisconsin Sig Sister."

richsaari@comcast.net

This 'heart of Wall Street' report comes from **Tim Starr, G'05**: "I've embarked on a Wall Street career, having worked several years in the industry before taking a position here with a middle market investment bank based in Arlington, VA. I'm currently selling NY and CT based mutual and hedge funds in our NYC office. The hours are long and free time is short, but I still remain a volunteer for Delta and have been working with the board on restoring the house & maintaining our autonomy from the College. I'm not the only Wallstreeter from the class of G'05; John Colan is a successful industry credit analyst who recently relocated to Chicago and Alexander Tye manages a fund of funds based in Manhattan."

timothy.g.starr@gmail.com

This May note comes from **Will Toscani, L'69**: "Semi-retiring and moving from NY to NC. We have a house in the mountains and I will be doing some work remotely to pay for Obama care. I've been self-employed in my accounting practice for 38 years and happily married to Sandy for 32 of them. It must be time for both of us to pack it in and chase that little white ball around!"

watoscani@aol.com

With much too much help from Mother Nature, **Bob Turner, C'40**, is having no trouble keeping busy. Now 93, Bob

posts as follows from his Connecticut home: “We were hit hard by Hurricane Sandy, spent much time with chainsaw. Then very snowy winter, spent much time with snow blower and shovel. ’Tis finally spring, so it’s back to chain sawing, where I left off last fall. Just can’t seem to find time to get to the gym! Still in same Weston, CT house (53 years), with my wife of 62 years.”

kty701@aol.com

Ted Unger, M’43, writes: “I live with my wife of 63 years in a wonderful senior living community called Parc at Duluth (GA) where they make us feel like we are at the Ritz! I spent 40 years with the Timken Co and have been retired for

25. We lived for 18 years of my retired year in Texas and the rest here in Georgia. We are both 88 and live a great life with our children (3), grand-children (3) and great grandchildren (2). I was swung in Ann Arbor as part of Michigan’s 1943 initiation class, and my warm memories



of Sigma Phi all stem from what we called the ‘Red House on the Hill’ at 426 North Ingalls.” tedunger@comcast.net Fellow Wolverine **Tim Welland, M’06**, writes: “Moved to Denver in 2007, shortly after college and worked as an economic consultant for 4.5 years. In 2011, I married Krystal Welland (née Larson) in downtown Denver. After a short stint at HomeAdvisor, I now work in real estate development with a friend and former colleague, developing multi-family real estate - a very exciting new career for me. On the whole, life is great! Krystal and I make our home in Denver’s West Washington Park neighborhood with two yappy but lovable dachshunds.”

welland.tim@gmail.com

Never Forget These Brothers

These deaths have been reported since publication of the 12/13 ‘Sigma Phi Flame.’

Richard S. Allen, H’39 20 June 2014
 Julius W. Berns, M’42 21 September 2008
 Albert G. Borden Jr., U’36 25 April 2014
 Robert B. Brewster, C’42 11 July 2013
 Richard B. Brindley, F’36 12 October 2006
 Charles W. Brockhoff, I’32 9 February 2006
 Charles W. Brodhead, M’48 12 September 2011
 Sherburne C. Brown Jr., M’51 20 February 2014
 Howard G. Carpenter Jr., U’58 . . 24 December 2013
 Richard E. Chittenden, C’48 2 August 2012
 Edward A. Craddock, I’59 14 November 2013
 John M. Cuddeback, G’38 30 August 2009
 J. Eugene Davis, M’56 1 March 2014
 Addison C. Ellerman, G’57 12 November 2013
 Bernard L. Falk, C’32 26 March 2010
 David V. Fergusson, G’38 10 December 2003
 Jeffrey W. Graham, C’38 6 July 13

Omar V. Greene Jr., L’48 3 June 2014
 Horace Havemeyer III, G’62 19 March 2014
 Robert H. Heidner, H’37 18 December 2013
 William P. Herbert, M’41 22 January 2014
 Paul Henry Hunt, V’47 30 November 2013
 H. Scott Johnson, V’60 29 June 2014
 William Kaufmann, H’49 3 August 2013
 Gordon Kiddoo, C’40 1 February 2012
 Irfan Ahmed Malik, H’85 14 April 2014
 Albert B. Miller, C’42 2 May 2014
 John Ogden, C’36 10 February 2014
 Robert W. Parker, H’39 3 January 1998
 Thomas H. Roderick, M’49 4 September 2013
 Edward S. Suffern, W’61 20 June 2014
 William John Touscany, M’77 19 January 2014
 Patrick J. VanCleve, L’65 21 March 2014
 Alfred C. Wilbur, V’32 20 August 2010
 Frank M. Woods Jr., C’51 8 May 2014



Sigma Phi FLAME

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Nominations Open for Distinguished Sig and David Brown Awards

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

2014 Dues Notice

While 2014 marks 187 years of this remarkable Society, some rewarding facets of being a Sig remain as they were in 1827: Brotherhood. Sharing. Expanded horizons.

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

Another constant? **An ongoing need for personal support from those who continue to care.**

Your dues each year enable the Society's publishing, training, and expansion efforts. Without active support from Sig alumni, there's no progress in those 'lifeblood' areas, just as there would have been no Sigma Phi at all had the Brothers Bowie, Witherspoon and Cromwell not acted on their remarkable fraternal vision in Schenectady in 1827.

If you haven't yet responded to the dues letter you received earlier this year, please invest a moment now. Mail your dues check (suggested - \$50 before 2009; \$30 for those initiated after), payable to Sigma Phi Society, to Sigma Phi, P. O. Box 4633, Chapel Hill, NC, 27515-4633.

Esto!