



CONVENTION '17

in Charlottesville:

coverage inside on pages 10-16

163



Sigma Phi

flame

NUMBER 130 • DECEMBER 2017

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

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



Is it possible to ascribe too high a value to civil discourse? The exchange of ideas and perspectives, thoughts, feelings and beliefs between people of

differing viewpoints is what advances a society. Critical thinking, clearly communicated and buttressed with facts, appealing to logic and not emotion, is the hallmark of civil discourse. And I contrast discourse to debate, wherein winners and losers emerge and emotions are brought to boil in the effort to bring home the victory. Discourse, John Locke opined, strives for "certain and undoubted truths, which the mind may rest upon and be satisfied within its search after true knowledge." Such an exercise is for the benefit of society (small 's') and the common good.

One would not be faulted in holding the view that civil discourse would be best represented on the grounds and campuses of our institutions of higher education – the universities and colleges where our Society has resided for many a year. There is, however, a current evident in our country today that causes great question about what is going on at our colleges and universities. Where is the intersection between speech and discourse, argument and antagonism, passion and reason? Why does it seem that so much offense is taken when none is intended?

To my mind, much of the contention on campuses arises from failure to recognize the "civil" in civil discourse – as defined by being courteous or polite. If, at the outset of any discussion, the parties will not or cannot recognize that each is engaging in the discourse to improve upon their mutual shared experiences, the prospect of an outcome that will be respected by all is slim. Importantly, such civility should not be construed to limit the ideas discussed simply because they are disagreeable to those taking part in the discourse. It serves no purpose other than to isolate and harden one's position to refuse to take part in a discussion because you believe that the topic is hateful or offensive. Such refusal

to engage promotes an "echo chamber" mentality in which all you hear are reflections of your own thinking. How can that serve to educate and arrive at truth?

University of Chicago President Robert Zimmer has tackled this issue head on: the mindset that speech can be hurtful and thus exclude participants who otherwise might be included. In Zimmer's words: "Inclusion into what? An inferior and less challenging education? One that fails to prepare students for the challenge of different ideas and the evaluation of their own assumptions? A world in which their feelings take precedence over other matters the need to be confronted?"

Where, you may ask, am I going with such a preamble? To Charlottesville and the grounds of the University of Virginia. This September, the Alpha of Virginia hosted our Society's national convention. When the chapter accepted the charge last year in Schenectady, no one could have imagined that Charlottesville would later make international headlines in connection with violent demonstrations resulting in the death of a participant and a police helicopter crash killing both officers on board. Those events this past August truly portray the antithesis of civil discourse. As troubling as they were, the demonstrators provided the backdrop for Sigma Phi's own General Convention meeting – a meeting in which the opportunity to descend into rancor and incivility was certainly and conspicuously present.

Over the course of the spring and summer of the year, it became evident that Sigma Phi needed to address the question of the Society's membership criteria. Three of our active chapters had prepared and circulated a position paper calling for Sigma Phi to become all inclusive and commence initiating female members into the bonds. Unbeknownst to its trustees, one chapter had begun to swing a woman only to have its alumni board move decisively to halt the effort. As the Society's Chairman, I indicated in my column in the last Flame that this question would be on the agenda of the General Convention meeting in Charlottesville and I invited all to attend and participate in the discussion.

A last minute change of facilities on Saturday morning moved the convention meeting from the planned University space to the chapter house on Rugby Road. I couldn't help but feel it providential that the venue for such a significant discussion had once housed our esteemed erstwhile Society Chairmen Cal Howard, S'54, and Jim Jenkins, S'58, when they were students at UVA. I admit to feeling anxious Friday night thinking about Saturday and how the meeting would unfold. When I walked into the house and saw the rows of chairs the brothers had set up with a makeshift dais by the fireplace, I recalled in my mind's eye seeing Brother Jenkins standing in that same spot many years earlier, smiling beatifically over the crowd. Memories of Jim's remarkable commitment to Sigma Phi quickly restored my composure.

When it was time to address the agenda item of mention, our sergeant-at-arms explained the impending discussion's format. As many brothers wanted to share viewpoints would be permitted 3 minutes each to address the meeting. A buzz went through the sixty or seventy assembled brothers as they readied their hearts and heads. As the Annual Meeting of the Members progressed, 28 brothers – active and alumni equally represented – came forward to speak and express their thoughts on the matter.

While I was impressed that so many had so much to say on both sides of the issue, I was more impressed still at the decorum and respect afforded each. Over nearly three hours (!), all of us listened attentively. All of us were eager to understand the passion and thought each speaker brought to the floor. His viewpoint may have been controversial, but all convention-goers listened raptly. It became evident that the youngest Sigs and the most senior brothers alike had been giving the matter very deep reflection. Those in attendance witnessed a passionate exchange of ideas, thoughts, feelings, beliefs and perspectives...between brothers of the same Society...with the intention of bettering our shared experience.

Civil discourse. Would our founders expect anything less in a gathering of serious Sigs?



MENTORSHIP:

Subtle Meaning - Generous Benefit

by Christy Lambden, T'11, 2027 Committee Chair lambenc@gmail.com

Recently, I went through a few weeks where life was very hard. Relationships weren't what I wanted them to be. The work in which I take such pride was unfulfilling. My hardship was far from unique; in fact, I have no doubt that others sometimes suffer and find life a great deal harder than I do.

As I worked through my difficulties, I discovered anew that I am far luckier than most. Despite not articulating my situation, a number of Sig brothers recognized changes in my behavior. They took it upon themselves to reach out, to provide support, and to deliver FLT. I am far luckier than most to be part of an organization that allowed me to forge such caring friendships.

When I joined a fraternity, I anticipated that I would build some of the best relations and friendships of my life. I expected that the people with whom I joined the fraternity, and with whom I spent my 4 undergraduate years would be my closest friends upon graduation. What I failed to anticipate is that some of my closest friends in the fraternity one day be with brothers who I did not spend a single day enrolled with

as an undergraduate. As I reflect upon my current relations with Sigs, I am astonished that some of the brothers I'm closest to are men who were not college peers. Nor did they attend UNC....or have birthdays in the same decade as mine.

As undergraduate brothers, we interact with a maximum 7 years of Sigs (working on the assumption that

“What I failed to anticipate is that some of my closest friends in the fraternity one day be with brothers who I did not spend a single day enrolled with as an undergraduate.”

we are on the 4 year track to graduation!!). We begin as the inexperienced members of the group as first years, following the direction and lead of those up to 3 years ahead of us. Over time, we become the older (wiser?) brothers, guiding those 3 years behind us, who are just starting their college experiences.

My shortsighted perception of Sigma Phi's true 'peer potential'

failed to acknowledge that we actually have the potential to interact with over 80 years of brothers. We have the potential to interact with brothers from 12 different chapters. That is a fraternal opportunity far different from...and far greater than....being limited to a pool of definable, local peers.

Some of the support that I received was from brothers from chapters other than my own, and from brothers up to 40 years my senior. I am lucky. In this instance, I was able to count on others with far greater experience than mine to listen, to prop me up and to set me on the right path. That is the power of Sigma Phi.

I have much to learn, as do brothers younger than I. That learning isn't only professional. Nor is it centered on travel advice....or investment wisdom.....or any skill or trade. Instead, it goes far beyond those specific, random examples, and can be far more substantial and nurturing. Within the context of Sigma Phi, all of us have the potential to learn about how to be men and - more importantly - how to be the men that the world needs.

Such emotional growth and development is one of the best, most

(continues on back cover)

VIEW FROM 3 Cobb Terrace

by David Smith, T'17 dasmith1234567@gmail.com

On UNC's Chapel Hill campus, if you leave campus, cross Franklin Street, pass 'Time Out' (our iconic late night food stop), walk another 3 blocks, take a right, and walk down a long gravel drive, you will find the newest Sigma Phi Place. Number 3 Cobb Terrace - a solitary home in the woods - is the recently-purchased home to 6 Tarheel Sigs, home to the accidental beginnings of a collection of taxidermy, and my home, too. As fall semester began, we moved into this house, which was vacant for 13 years, and made it the home of the North Carolina Alpha. While this place is many things, I like to think of it as two in particular: a conduit for Friendship, Love, and Truth as well as a patient but demanding teacher.



At any given time, there are several brothers meeting in these hallowed rafters. They pass time together in many and varied ways, from training for rock climbing trips in the back shed to studying around the kitchen table to hovering over the kitchen stove, all trying to cook at one time. Yes, it's fair to say that 3 Cobb is generally abuzz with excitement!

Another favorite pastime is enjoying our expansive property. Laying out in hammocks, gathering around the bonfire, or simply having a stroll around this wooded oasis allow us to reflect on the deep values of the Sigma Phi. Such reflection also provides opportunities to consider the future. When we return 20 years from now for alumni weekends, maybe we will find a greatly changed physical environment, but I sincerely hope that this property does not lose its solitary peace. At the same time, we look to the Alpha's future excitedly. Perhaps there will be a basketball court, a patio, or even a new wing allowing even more Sigs to unite and do life under one roof.

While we enjoy thinking of the far off future, questions about the near future are also on our minds. Two things seem

certain. First, we will continue to have a satellite house away from 3 Cobb. This is crucial as Cobb is a wonderful plot of land, but is also situated very close to several older couples' homes. The result? We need to be very respectful of this space, and serve as a positive, new force in the neighborhood. This also means that having a second, rented residence is important for social events.

The second thing I know for certain is that we will spend no more funds on taxidermy! After all, Albert the taxidermy squirrel and the still-nameless antelope head are two full time residents of 3 Cobb. Albert was given to us for free, while the North Carolina Sigs crowd-funded enough money for the antelope ahead of move-in, making it the single most expensive item in the house!

This home has quirks which precipitate strong affections. Across the main roof, there is a massive skylight. While advisor and Sig stalwart R.J. Lackey, S'86, is quick to point out that skylights are bad ideas because they involve putting holes in the roof and weakening the structure, we nonetheless enjoy the natural light in our living room. Another quirk is the thermal

mass in the basement. In past times, thermal mass, or the concept of storing large volumes of water inside of a house in order to decrease the speed with temperature changes, was more common. At 3 Cobb there are ten 50 gallon tubs full of water in the crawl space. Before we investigated the science behind thermal mass, our speculations were rampant! What are these huge oil drums in the basement? Are we safe? Are they remnants of some diabolical yet top secret bomb project? Fortunately, our wild wonderings were stilled by the clean bill of health inspection yielded prior to our inhabiting the house.

Through these quirks we have learned many lessons, and become better men. We learned how to call plumbers when the kitchen sink backed up, and we learned how to develop a siphon to drain the barrels. We learned that shovels are terrible implements to trim back the bamboo forest that is constantly invading our lawn, and that weeds grow incredibly fast. We learned the location of the closest dump. We learned that, if you want something done, you're best served doing it yourself.

(continues on back cover)



A Tribute to Hercules, Sig Style

by George Snyder S'78
snyder.gn@gmail.com

In my family, there is no more beloved a figure than one named Hercules. Who was he? Surely not a god, nor a man...but a dog. "Herc" was there when my father was born. At a very young age, Dad was there when Herc died, wrapping his tiny arms around the Saint Bernard's neck as he was carried out of the house in Plainfield, N. J. Dad is 90

now, but he recounted this memory as if it were yesterday.

How is this a Sigma Phi story? My grandfather, Baird Snyder, was a Sigma Phi at Cornell, C'19, a fact I knew nothing about until after I pledged. Soon after my initiation, my grandmother gave me his badge. She had kept for 46 years, through three marriages. Later, she also presented a Sigma Phi bracelet, given by my grandfather, to my future bride.

I thought this was the end of the story. But two years ago, thanks to Nate Daugherty, S'95, I was able to peruse a 1949 edition of the Sigma Phi Catalogue. There, under my grandfather's name, I discovered hitherto unknown Sigma Phi relatives: George W. Snyder II, L'1887 - my great uncle - and cousins in several chapters. I had an entire Sigma Phi family!

How does Hercules fit into this story? I was recounting my newfound family knowledge to my father earlier this year, telling him how George W. Snyder II was initiated as part of the Bethlehem chapter's very first class in 1887. All of a sudden, Dad said "That's where we got Hercules."

"What?" I responded. Dad continued: "Mom and Dad used to drive over to Lehigh on weekends to chaperone

parties at Sigma Phi. One weekend, they came home with Hercules. He was the Bethlehem chapter's house dog and needed a new home." Herc was a Sigma Phi!

I find formal reference to the name Hercules in our Catalogue's historical sketch. At the bottom of page 5, explaining how Sigma Phi overcame the early animosity towards secret societies, it is stated:

*"The serpents sent by Juno
to destroy the infant Hercules
were slain by the demi-god, while yet
in his cradle, and the youthful societies
seem to have been endowed at their
birth with a like vigorous strength."*

Perhaps our Lehigh brothers were so knowledgeable about the history of Sigma Phi that they saw their Saint Bernard, then still a pup, as an "infant Hercules." Fact? Fiction? I don't know for certain. For me, it's always been a very good Sig supposition, anyway.



CALIFORNIA RESTORES Heirloom Badge to Rightful Place

Some terrific teamwork involving eBay and a determined band of California Sig alumni restored a Society heirloom to its rightful Sig place.



In early September, Kevin Wiens, I'93, spied a Sig badge on eBay. While jewelry pieces on eBay aren't uncommon, this one was. Close inspection revealed that this Sig badge had originally belonged to one Herbert Harold Burbank, a member of the charter class of the California chapter in 1912!

Brother Wiens wasted no time in sounding the alarm to other California alumni. Doug Kari, I'75, immediately contacted the seller to determine

authenticity. The seller had purchased the piece at a California estate sale, was not interested in negotiating privately and had photos which substantiated the vintage jewelry's pedigree. When he was satisfied, Doug shared the news with others, and the fund-raising began, fast and furious! In very short order, the seller's asking price of \$589.50 was raised through the generosity of Jim Morrison, I'76, Doug Kari, I'75, Pete Clark, I'65, Don Falk, I'75, Dan McNear, I'78, Andrius

Kontrimas, I'81, and Kevin Wiens, I'93, Moses Cesario, I'89, and a mystery Sig who goes by the nom de plume 'Norman Rockwell.'

Some months later, the Burbank badge once again occupies a place of honor in the hallowed halls of 2307 Piedmont Way. Thanks to the medium of eBay and the generosity of a caring and (of course!) spirited group of Berkeley Sigs, there's another heirloom jewel in California's crown.

1892 Badges Unearthed

by Lloyd F. Stamy, Jr., S'70
lloyd.stamy@gmail.com

Approximately 30 years ago, I was quite unexpectedly presented with two Sig badges on behalf of a 19th



century Thrice Illustrious predecessor. They originally belonged to one Thomas Chesebrough, H'1892, and his Sig Sister, Anna Coslea....presumably his eventual wife. Tom was a legacy. His father, Thomas W. Chesebrough, was initiated at Hamilton in 1857.

Prior to his death, Chesebrough had properly and pointedly asked his attorney to one day put these badges into the hands of a Sigma Phi member, whom he hoped would know what to do with them. It took several decades, but Brother Chesebrough's then-aging attorney - who practiced in Pittsburgh, my home town - presented me with those heirloom pieces in about 1987. I've kept them under lock and key ever since. It seemed fitting that, on the occasion of the 2017 National Convention at the Alpha of Virginia, I would

put them in someone else's hands for future safekeeping. (Mark O'Brien, I'63)

From the Society's 1949 Catalogue, page 87, Chesebrough was born 11-20-1871 in Syracuse, earned both Bachelor's (1896) and Master's (1901) degrees, and was Phi Beta Kappa. He spent the majority of his career (1909-1940) teaching in the Pittsburgh Public Schools (Schenley and Central High Schools), where he chaired the Botany and Biology departments.

The attached photographs show both badges. Unlike the far smaller pins that are currently issued, the Sig Sister badge is only slightly smaller in size to both brother Chesebrough's and mine. In a lovely jewelry style departure, it carries light blue stones/pearls in lieu of white ones. Anna's badge lists Burnsville, N.C., as her home.

Membership Matter: Next Steps

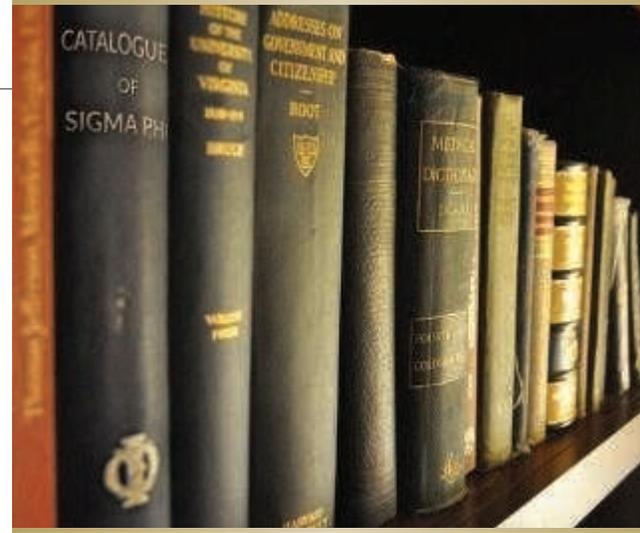
The expansive General Convention discussion on Sigma Phi's membership criteria was just that: a discussion. Our by-laws and constitution are quite specific as to the notice provision (60 days notice to all members) required to amend the Society's controlling document. As a point of order, proper notice not having been given, no vote could be taken. That was understood by all heading into Saturday's meeting and perhaps the quality of discussion benefited knowing that a vote would not be called that day.

As the wide range of feelings expressed on the matter emerged, what also became apparent was the lack of a uniform understanding of the role Sig Sisters have in our Society. Expressed another way, it seems that Sig Sisters are viewed quite differently depending on each Sig chapter and its traditions. There is no uniform understanding simply because none exists! While some brothers could clearly articulate what it means to initiate a woman as a Sig Sister, other brothers might question whether Sig Sisters actually exist. A few

actives in the room had a complete lack of knowledge on the Society's history of bringing women into the bonds as "sisters."

The Chairman expressed his thought that defining the role of Sig Sisters may be the bridge between the two opposite views on the membership criteria question. That thought was echoed by more than a few of the brothers who joined the discussion. Accordingly, the Chair stated his intention of forming a committee to explore the role of Sig Sisters in our Society - examining the history and traditions of each chapter and seeing if a path can be found that would satisfy the good intentions and honest feelings expressed by the brothers at Convention 2017.

Keeping in mind that the committee has to be manageable in size, Chairman Brendan McCurdy, H'80, has called for brothers - alumni and actives, alike - and Sig sisters who are interested in serving to contact him at ofelixculpa@aol.com



Catalogue Need: But How?

Every Sig learns key lessons via the Sigma Phi Catalogue. That trusty blue compendium presents an empirical blend of Society history, chapter profiles and a listing of our members around the world. Over the decades, it has been published at least 5 times in that comprehensive and familiar form. The most recent Catalogue went to press in 1977....nearly a lifetime ago. All would certainly agree it's time for a successor edition, right?

But how? The last Catalogue was a herculean labor which took more than a year's dedicated work by (then) undergrad Pat Pollock, F'67, working at the behest of (then) General Secretary (and employer) Rollie Smith, F'51. Both men worked for the Webcrafters Printing firm in Madison which ultimately printed the finished product we all know so well.

Fast forward to 2017. **How on earth can/should a volunteer organization like ours research, create and print a successor volume for Society-wide use?**

Brothers, your insights and suggestions are hereby solicited...and most welcome. Please contact Society Chairman Brendan McCurdy, H'80 (ofelixculpa@aol.com).

SAVE THIS 2018 DATE



Convention '18: Early Notice

The Society's 2018 Convention will be held with the Alpha of Wisconsin over the weekend of Sept 28-30th. Plan to join our Badger Sig hosts as they celebrate fall on the shores of Lake Mendota and the 110th anniversary of the Wisconsin Chapter!



SIGMA PHI EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION:

WHAT IS SIGMA PHI IN 2017? WHAT WILL IT BE IN 2027?

by Jack Romaine, L'90, SPEF President jeromai1@yahoo.com



I don't believe today's fraternities are much like what was intended by the founders of the Union Triad back in the late 1820s. I'm not familiar with every fraternity, but my own experiences with other houses and what I read in the news makes it seem like there is too little "Sigma Phi" and too much "Animal House" out there.

Like many of you, I wasn't particularly interested in joining a fraternity and was drawn to Sigma Phi by the people I met on campus that I would eventually call "brothers." So for me, there is little surprise that universities and colleges around the country are questioning why fraternities even exist anymore. We, unfortunately, are lumped in with the rest and are clearly feeling the pressure from all of our host institutions. "What value do you add to our undergraduates?" and "What does it mean to be a fraternity in the 21st Century?" are the questions we must answer.

If you are taking the time to read this, I am confident you understand the value of Sigma Phi. Your continued interest helps to perpetuate and enhance a meaningful experience for our current actives. But this experience and value are difficult to convey to anyone who is not apart of it.

Sigma Phi has chosen to rise to the occasion and do more to enhance the undergraduate experience in a more visible and public forum. I hope that you are familiar with the three initiatives we are actively pursuing: 1) Sexual Assault Prevention; 2) Leadership Academy; & 3) Careers and Mentoring Program. If you are not familiar with what we are trying to do, please take a few minutes and check out the video on the SigmaPhi.org homepage and also click on the Key Initiatives section to read more. As we build out these programs, we are not only going to make the undergraduate Sigma Phi experience better, but we are going to do it in a way that outsiders, too, can see...and, ideally, appreciate.

The Sigma Phi Educational Foundation (SPEF) is the tax-deductible arm of the Society. Giving to SPEF helps the Society and it allows you to deduct contributions you make to Sigma Phi on your taxes. Given the educational nature of the initiates we are working on, the Educational Foundation will be able to fund a significant portion of such costs. I hope you will be involved and give back in some way that is meaningful to you. I am grateful for the experiences I have had as part of Sigma Phi, but I am especially proud that we have so many alumni Brothers that are striving to make it even better in the future!

What is our



SPEF: Did you know?

Did you know that the Sigma Phi Educational Foundation (SPEF) encourages undergraduate scholastic achievement? SPEF offers cash awards to the Chapter with the highest GPA and to the Chapter with the largest improvement in GPA. SPEF also rewards actives who join honor societies. In addition to having such achievement(s) announced at a convention and in the Society's publications, each honored brother will be reimbursed up to \$150 for the cost of his insignia, upon request. The roster of national senior honor societies recognized by Sigma Phi evolves as those societies continuously realign and new ones emerge.

2016 SIGMA PHI EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION ANNUAL CAMPAIGN DONOR RECOGNITION LIST

APPEARING HERE IS THE LIST OF DONORS TO THE FOUNDATION'S 2016 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN. GIVING BY THESE BROTHERS IS THE CORNERSTONE OF OUR SUCCESS. DONORS ARE SHOWN BY GIVING CATEGORY.

SILKEN TIE (\$500 and up)

Donald Beane L'64
Jack Bolz F'48
Patrick Brill S'53
Anthony Bryant C'49
Bart Eaton V'63
Derek Frederickson V'94
David Garden L'48
Davidn Gardner V'59
Glenn George C'82
Jamesn Hansen V'8
Donald Hunt V'73
Alfred Kennedy L'83
Jeffrey Kunz F'68
Edward Mack M'62
Michael McCormick L'83
Todd Menenberg M'76
Frederick Mueller L'61
Robert Oefflein F'69
Roy Park C'12
David Pauls M'65
James Peterson M'59
William Poarch S'54
Roland Schroeder L'83
Peter Smith U'67
Stephen Smith G'75
Marshall Solem F'79
Milton Woodhouse F'38
Donald Zillman F'63

MAGIC CIRCLE (\$250-\$499)

Theodore Bahr L'77
Christopher Bartels C'06
Patrick Gaillard M'72
Clifford Graffuis I'71
John Helm F'81
David Hess L'86
Frederick Lamont F'72

Richard Melbye I'52
Samuel Moore F'70
Perry Olson F'68
Timothy Pickering H'78
William Poarch S'54
Jordan Raetz M'06
James Ritchey C'82
John Romaine L'90
Roland Schroeder L'83
Gregory Smith F'89
Robert Taisey V'48
Stephen VanMeter M'80
John Walsler L'90
Gavin Watson G'63

TWENTY PEARL (\$199-\$249)

John Allen M'67
Andrew Bartlett H'86
Frederick Bloom C'57
John Boehmke H'75
Peter Bolger L'66
Adam Brandt G'93
Theodore Briski F'80
John Britten V'02
Scott Brown M'81
Sean Cameron S'95
Eric Chartan V'98
Russell Charter M'58
David Dallas S'79
George Davenport V'48
Richard Dorer L'66
Robert Dorse U'50
David Drake S'67
Michael Eadie M'69
Michael Fisher U'80
Peter Flynn C'66
Melvin Gay M'56
Jackson Goddard U'54
Alex Green U'89
Ernest Greppin G'57

Richard Guior L'79
Thomas Hamilton G'60
Neil Hanlon L'54
Robert Harshberger I'59
Scott Hekel F'97
Jason Henning F'04
Jackson Horton F'49
William Hughes U'57
Peter Hutcheon W'62
Roland Isaak I'70
Christopher Jones G'79
Claude Kemper S'56
Joseph Kent S'63
David Kretschmann F'83
Peter Manus W'62

Franklin Mead C'56
George Mercer M'68
John Meyer V'63
David Moore M'80
Douglas Moore H'82
Timothy Moran I'76
Daniel Neumann F'71
David Northacker L'77
Brendan O'Rourke S'78
Theodore Ochs L'83
Stephen Penwell V'82
Timothy Pickering H'78
Robert Pyle W'57
Ronald Schmaedick F'56
Charles Schmeling F'75
Jeffrey Seigle M'76
Howard Shearer C'54
Gerald Smith V'73
Andrew Torre V'88
Michael Traynor I'52
Robert Tuoriniemi M'77
Tom Van Oss F'98
Peter VanBrunt G'59
Alvin Volkman U'45
Andrew Wagshul U'89
Nils Wayman L'88

SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP (up to \$100)

Nils Apelandn F'94
James Behrend F'76
Peter Birkel G'56
William Breg U'72
Moses Cesario I'89
Peter Flick G'63
Robert Foglia L'93
Philip Giesen M'59
Karl Gigante M'86
Peter Grylls M'50
David Hamm M'91
Jack Harned F'51
Mark Isken M'85
Marston Jones H'57
Christopher Knuth F'78
Jude Michael Mason U'05
Scott McCrae V'82
Brendan McCurdy H'80
Curtis Nelson F'75
Brian Nerbonne M'91
David Phippen S'77
Robert Pierson L'54
Ronald Randall U'55
Andrew Rochat G'85
Arne Salvesen F'57
Samuel Schneider U'90
Kenneth Shutt H'54
Geoffrey Talbott G'92
Thomas Taylor G'63
Braden Tempas L'90
Steven Walraven I'08
George Wheeler F'46

future?

CONVENTI

Alumnus Perspective

by Allan Smith, S'86 asmith4@steelcase.com

Charlottesville is difficult to resist at any time, but Charlottesville in the fall is downright spectacular. This was my thinking when I first received notice that the 2017 annual Sig convention would be hosted at the University of Virginia in September 2017. Needless to say, it went on my agenda immediately and I booked airline tickets. Combined with a UVa. college search for my high school junior and the ability to connect with Sigs that I had not seen for almost 30 years, it was to be a very special weekend indeed. In fact, the last time I was at Sigma Phi, I was the social chairman when the Alpha hosted the convention in 1988!

Flying in from Grand Rapids, Michigan on a Thursday night, I texted R.J. Lackey, S'86, from the airport and let him know my flight arrival time. RJ and Bob Guthrie, S'86, were hosting a group of wandering birds atop the Graduate Hotel rooftop bar with the Blue Ridge foothills in the background. Wandering birds landed from all over; people came up for the evening from Richmond (my hometown), California, North Carolina, Atlanta, and Michigan. We took over a corner table, opened a tab and proceeded to catch up with old friends and met some new ones as well. I cornered Guthrie and pumped him for information on each and every person in our pledge class plus or minus 2 years. Amazingly, Bob was pretty up to speed on each person: work, relationships, kids, etc. What Bob did not know, R.J. filled in.

Friday was consumed with committee meetings and much controversy around a co-ed Sigma Phi. At a lunch break, I met a Sig from California working for a medical device start-up, and it was fascinating to hear about his travels and device trials in Turkey. That afternoon, a group went to the brewery to catch up and sample some of Charlottesville's finest. The highlight of the day was the oyster and pig roast held at 163 Rugby Road.



“It was terrific to get back to my roots and reconnect....”

163

ON '17:

More Sigs arrived from all over the country to catch up and say hello. What amazed me that night was the vivid memories that Serps recounted about our days in Charlottesville. Brothers remembered in great detail the bands we hosted, parties at 163 Rugby Road, mixers with specific sororities, formal events, stories about our fabled cook, Yvonne Mason, afternoons playing Setback and life at the house in general. Thirty years later, my brothers fondly remembered the chapter's social events and thanked me for planning such awesome parties!

On Saturday, I became a more focused and attentive father as I went on the UVA. college tour with

my wife of 25 years, Melissa (whom I met at UVA) and my daughter, Halsey, a high school junior. Could I imagine Halsey walking in our footsteps at this amazing place of higher learning and lifelong friendships? (I could!)

Saturday afternoon, I took my wife and daughter to the pre-dinner Sig cocktails to meet the old crew and catch up. It was fun to introduce my daughter to all of the people she had heard so much about growing up. Dinner was back upstairs and the food met everyone's expectations. Lots of awards and recognition followed by Holt Livesay's (S'87) animated and lively closing remarks on what it meant to him to be a Sigma Phi, the acceptance he felt from his peers and

the reasons he ended up pledging -- with no regrets, I might add. We returned to Sigma Phi Place after the banquet for more catching up with long lost friends, more stories, more laughter and more outpouring of love.

It's been almost 30 years since I graduated. Those years have been consumed with life, career and kids. During Convention '17, it was terrific for me to get back to my roots and reconnect with the fine men that made my life so complete while I was living in Charlottesville. It seemed as if no time had passed and I was transported back to some of the best, most fun and satisfying years of my life.

Thanks to all of you who were there. You made it special.

Undergrad Experience

by David Medeiros, C'17 dcm283@cornell.edu

As I walked down the stairs descending from my plane, I immediately noticed the spike in humidity. It had been a nonstop morning of travel that started in Ithaca, transited through Philadelphia and ended in Charlottesville. This represented an uncharacteristically large amount of movement for a sophomore college student! Alongside two of my fellow brothers, Samuel Frey, C'17, and Gregory Chung, C'17, we found a taxi and headed towards the campus of University of Virginia.

At the request of my parents, I had never ventured outside of the northeast during my college search. Yet I always knew that the University of Virginia was stunning and my first visit certainly proved this out. The Jeffersonian architecture lining the streets creating a sense of cohesion, even amongst the downtown buildings. I had given the street address of Sigma Phi to the driver, but his confidence in finding the destination didn't seem too strong. Right about the time I was going to suggest that we three just walk, I saw a striking



David Medeiros, C'17, is at right.

structure with a Sigma and Phi nestled between two other buildings. We had found a place of familiarity.

(continues on page 12)



(continued from page 11)

It was not until Convention weekend started that I realized how interconnected every chapter is to the others. The knowledge being passed down from older Sigs was especially touching, with conversations between brothers of the past and present occurring all around me. I specifically remember sitting down at the pig roast on Friday night, looking out to at the large congregation of Sigs where individual groups of animated convention-goers had no two brothers of the same age! It represented the very best kind of mingling. During my time at the roast, I met Sigs from many places, including the Vermont, Lehigh, and UVA.



On Saturday morning, the conference's attendees gathered to discuss the wellbeing of every chapter. This was the moment when I felt the most privileged to be a Sig. A large room, packed to its brim with people, yet everyone had something in common. Even during the forum, where controversial topics were discussed openly, there was a strong sense of brotherly love and respect radiating from everyone.



Looking back on my Convention experience, I can confidently say that the roots of Sigma Phi continue to grow strong. Although my seeds as a Sig have just been planted, I am part of a network of brothers more than willing to promote my development and growth. These ties extend across state and country lines, always drawing us back together in order to fully ensure future prosperity for our Society.



I understand that it will be in the hands of my Sig generation to take care of tomorrow's brotherhood, a responsibility which cannot be taken lightly. But I have great faith in what is next, as I know many of us, including myself, are willing to put in the extra effort to guarantee a flourishing tomorrow for the Thrice Illustrious.



David Pauls, M'65, Earns Brown Service Award

In 1999, the Society commissioned an award for distinguished service. Named after the late David S. Brown, S'70, one of the founders of the Sigma Phi Educational Foundation, it recognizes contributions by Sig Brothers who have demonstrated enduring love for our Society via long time contributions of personal service.

In formal ceremony at Convention '17 in Charlottesville, the Brown Service Award was presented to David W. Pauls, M'65. David's service to Sigma Phi began as an undergrad, when as a new Sig in a brand new, circa-1964 Sigma Phi Place, he served successively as rush chair, initiation chair and vice president.

For Brother Pauls, the theme of service would continue after graduation. Shortly after earning his degree in 1967, David volunteered for service to the Ann Arbor chapter's alumni board. His profession as a tax specialist with IRS equipped him with financial skills and discipline which served the Alpha very well.

At the same time, Dave took a very keen interest in our national organization. Part of his considerable pride in Sig membership, after all, centered around the fact that Sigma Phi reached far beyond the city limits of Ann Arbor. He read each 'Flame' with interest, was a regular duespayer, and immediately saw the wisdom behind the founding of the Sigma Phi Educational Foundation (SPEF) in 1985.

When the Society's flagship banquet was held in Detroit in 1990, David was quick to say 'yes' to a

surprise luncheon invitation from SPEF co-founder David Brown, S'70. During that luncheon, Brother Brown shared his vision for SPEF's growth....and invited Brother Pauls to drive that vision as Executive Director. Serendipity! The second David said 'yes' to the first David, and a brand new level of service to Sigma Phi was undertaken.

David served as the Foundation's Executive Director from 1990 to 1996. In that time, he worked tirelessly

and the Foundation. At a time of increasing demands, increasing costs and diminishing giving, there was a clear and present need for oversight which benefitted both arms of our Society. When that assignment ended in 2016, David was recruited by SPEF President Jack Romaine, L'90, to serve as the Foundation's Vice President. That service continues to this day.

While David's formal service to the Society has been both stellar

Vision. Heart. Dedication.

In 52 years of membership, David Pauls has brought all of these to Sigma Phi. Season after season, he has modeled Sig service as few before him have.

(Photo: David Pauls, M'65 & Mike Imirie, M'69)



to drive awareness of the fledgling Society educational platform. He designed campaign themes, commissioned supporting artwork, created outreach copy and developed a Foundation-unique database. In short, he prospered the Foundation in a way which drove it from a great idea to a credible and relevant Society vehicle.

His service in the years since has been no less generous....or remarkable. In June of 2015, he was asked to serve in a new role: Executive Director of combined operations for the Society

and sustained, his biggest and most successful role over the years has simply been that of a long run Sig. He continues to participate in Sig events on both coasts and to 'take the pulse' of the young men who become Sigs. He engages easily, listens as well as he speaks, and contributes in mighty ways as he role models Sig participation.

Do you know of an alumni brother who might be worthy of Brown Service Award consideration? Create and share your written nomination for that Sig with Society Recognition Chair Dan Neumann, F'71, via phone or e-mail (cell: 203-362-8570; e-mail: dca120@sbcglobal.net)

RITUAL WORKSHOP:

Looking Back With Purpose

by Jacob Leebron, H'16 jleebron@hamilton.edu

At the Convention in September, I had the pleasure and the opportunity to participate in the undergraduate workshop about ritual led by Flame editor Mike Imirie, M'69. As a student of religious studies, perhaps I was more enthralled than some of my fellow undergraduates, but the conversations and dialogues that we had on UVA's campus were of great importance to all in attendance.

The focus of the workshop was Sigma Phi's rituals and history. Normally, when scholars analyze these subjects with a group like Sigma Phi, the history is complicated by the ritual. What that means is that ritual often creates a mythologized version of the past, which deviates from historical accuracy. This is not the case for Sig! I was amazed to find that our workshop's source material is definitively 190 years old and completely unedited since its inception. Given that Sigma Phi was founded during the Second Great Awakening (1790-1850), the religious tone is unsurprising. But the lack of edits and quorums on edits makes Sigma Phi's ritual documents different from, say, the Book of Mormon, written at roughly the

same time. In trying to contextualize the significance of such historicity, I'll be blunt; the unaltered qualities of Sig's documents are nearly unparalleled!

Returning to the workshop, we undergraduate brothers participated in a wide-ranging conversation about the Society's history and values. We discussed some of the core tenets of what it means to be a sibling. Even though the brothers who traveled to UVA were from different corners of the country, all of us found common ground in the ideals which led us to join Sigma Phi. These were the same ideals outlined in texts from 190 years ago. What a connection! It is so rare to feel part of something as old as Sig, but there we were - gathered together in a UVA classroom - having a deep, heartfelt dialogue that our founders would have understood and applauded.

That is the power of Sigma Phi's rich and detailed history. Before the National Convention, I had never had the opportunity to call a stranger "brother", and I have to say that the experience was surprisingly wonderful. While I didn't always know precisely who each sibling was, I

always knew that we had a shared past with Sig and an identity formed around that past. Strangers though we were, we had a strong and shared idea of what it means to be a Sig. In maintaining our rituals, it's clear, we maintain our Society's history in a way that allows us to fully connect with our present.

Perhaps an even stronger point would be that this is the past that members have all chosen. We all have little choice in where we are born or our early personal histories, but we can choose to be ourselves in the current moment. This value - that of being true to oneself - is a core tenet of Sigma Phi. I know that I strive to be true to myself. I believe that, in choosing to become a Sig, I chose to connect my individual self with a beautiful, multi-faceted collective that still pushes me to self-realization every day.

I'll admit that I came to the Convention this year with sweaty palms and a fluttering stomach. It is intimidating to meet your "older brothers", so to speak, for the first time. I couldn't be more pleased with my decision to go. After connecting with and contextualizing the ritual and Sigma Phi's history (which I am very grateful happened first that weekend), I found easy common ground with every Sig in the room, no matter their age or background. I sincerely hope that the experience was as enlightening for the other actives as it was for me, because I am more proud of being a Sig today than I've ever been.

Thank you so much to the host Alpha of Virginia and to everyone who helped plan and organize Convention weekend. It was a delightful, formative experience and I hope one day to reciprocate the warmth and hospitality shown to me.



Jacob Leebron, H'16



Leadership Academy Created

At our fall convention in Charlottesville, the S&A announced the creation of a new Leadership Academy to be named after two former national Chairs of this Society: Calhoun L.H. Howard, S'54, and James L Jenkins, S'58. The S&A wants to honor two of the great leaders in Sigma Phi history by creating a recurring academy to help develop and train future generations of Sig leaders. Initial funding has been committed by the Sigma Phi Educational Foundation.

The plan is for the Howard-Jenkins Leadership Academy to host 3 undergraduate brothers from each chapter each year to engage in a multi-day leadership training workshop. Such leadership training will offer multiple sessions hosted by professional trainers. This targeted training is designed to help undergraduate brothers identify and develop their own leadership styles. In addition, participating brothers will engage in discussions around the most substantial challenges facing fraternities....and try to create solutions for Sigma Phi. Finally, they will engage in discussions about how Sigma Phi can continue to be a national leader within the community of fraternities.

Beyond initial funding, our hope is to create an endowment for the Leadership Academy so that it can be sustained and funded for generations of undergraduate brothers to come. If you would like to support the Howard-Jenkins Leadership Academy and honor the memory of two of this Society's greatest leaders, you can make a targeted donation to the Society at large or to the Sigma Phi Educational Foundation (tax-advantaged).



NATIONAL LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS

The convention in Charlottesville saw the election of national officers. The election matched returning experience with new leaders, and all were approved unanimously at the Annual Meeting of the Members. National officers are elected to serve 3-year terms, with the next election due in 2020.

Brendan McCurdy, H'80, returns as the Chair of the Standing and Advisory Committee. Brendan has served as Chair for the past 4 years, and in his capacity has overseen: the creation of the strategic plan for Sigma Phi, the implementation of a new national structure, and the launch of the Society's first targeted fundraising campaign. During the coming term, Brendan will see the strategic plan through to completion and start to plan for Sigma Phi's 200th anniversary.

Moses Cesario, I'89, is the Vice Chair of the Standing and Advisory Committee, a capacity in which he has served since 2013. As Vice Chair of the Society, Moses is chiefly responsible for the insurance of all undergraduate and graduate chapters of Sigma Phi.

Robert (Bob) Guthrie, S'85, was appointed Society Treasurer in 2016. Bob has worked on the implementation of the Society's modernized financial operations.

Brannum Forsyth, T'14, was elected as the Society's new General Secretary. He is the first North Carolina brother to serve on the Society's Executive Committee. Having just graduated from the University of North Carolina, he brings youth and energy to the board. Brannum is looking forward to traveling on behalf of the Society, which has been an essential part of the secretary's job in previous generations. He plans to visit all of the undergraduate chapters through the course of his service term.

Finally, **R.J. Lackey, S'85**, will continue to serve as General Counsel for the Society. The general counsel is appointed by the Chair, and is a non-voting member of the Executive Committee. R.J. lives in Danville, VA and - in addition to his national responsibilities - provides local support for both the North Carolina and Virginia chapters

WINNING HICKS SPEECH

“Tradition Paced by Positive Change”

by Brendan Provo, F'16 bprovo@wisc.edu

(The 2017 Hicks Oratorical Contest was a keystone convention event. Participants and convention-goers alike enjoyed the opportunity to be reminded of the generosity and vision of Oliver Hewlett Hicks, V'1869, and of the legacy he created so long ago. Six undergraduates representing four different chapters took part, wearing their hearts on the sleeves as they waxed eloquent about Sigma Phi. Three alumni judges deliberated immediately afterwards, formally evaluating all six speeches. Brendan Provo, F'16, was judged the winner of this year's contest.)

Good evening, all. My name is Brendan Provo, F'16, and I'm the chapter president back in Wisconsin. Don't let the F'16 fool you, though. I've been in Sigma Phi for over two years. When I pledged in the fall of 2015, I wasn't initiated until the second weekend of the spring 2016 semester. What a long time to wait! But the thing was that no one could explain why we did it that way except one response: “tradition”. The response was earnest, and it also comes in the alternate form “well, that's how we've always done it.” While well-intended, that overlong process led to higher pledge dropout rates and fewer Sigs living in-house. Why? Because students had already arranged housing by the time initiation came around. It simply had to change. And change it, we did. In the very first year, we saw fewer pledges drop and more pledges live-in after initiating.

In my opinion, ‘tradition’ means that we as active Sigs always look for constant improvement in the chapter

while staying true to our roots. I believe that Charles Darwin said it best in his famous work, *The Origin of Species*. “One general law, leading to the advancement of all organic beings, namely, multiply, vary, let the strongest live and the weakest die.” For 190+ years, Sigma Phi has prospered. And we will continue to for another 190.

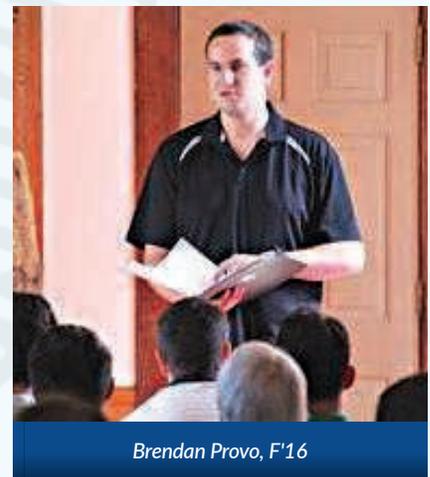
Sigma Phi has hit some rough spots along the way, though - the Alpha of Wisconsin included. As recently as one year ago, we were down to 7 actives living in-house in addition to non-member boarders to fill the house. That was my first year living in the Harold C. Bradley House. The Wisconsin chapter painstakingly audited everything we do. We asked ourselves why do we do the things we do? What purpose does everything serve? A year later, we rushed a class of 10 Sigs between fall and spring semesters to bring the number of in-house Sigs to 13. Our current fall rush class has 7 accepted bids with 2 more anticipated. The Alpha of Wisconsin is in a much better position for the future. The common theme through our renaissance? Constant improvement.

During a pre-rush actives meeting this fall, I gave my chapter a simple directive: above all else, be honest. In the long-run, we acquire more high-quality Sigs through honesty than from being artificial. We're not a large party fraternity. But what we can promise from Sigma Phi is that you'll be more than simply a number. You'll be family.

So much of what makes Sigma Phi great is the brotherhood. As a freshman, I never intended to join a fraternity. But after one of the first freshman move-in days, I was

sitting in the dorm common area when a guy on my floor invited me to some fraternity for a rush event. I was skeptical.... but I went, anyways. I met the Sig brothers and enjoyed it so much I kept going up. The close-knit friendships at the Alpha of Wisconsin mixed with our fantastic house led to a family dynamic that is unique from the large 150-member fraternities that dominate the other side of Wisconsin's campus. (By the way, the Wisconsin Alpha has the most remarkable Sigma Phi Place. And I'd like nothing better than to show you when you come visit us in Madison for Convention '18...)

In conclusion, tradition requires a delicate balance. In the perfect amounts, Sigma Phi chapters have a strong bedrock to build upon for generations to come. If we get too bogged down in how things used to be done, we miss opportunities to make positive change. And, if you ask me, positive change is the most important component for another successful 190 years of the Thrice Illustrious.



Brendan Provo, F'16



BLOOD BROTHERS

by Patrick O'Connell, F'89 poconnell@nwmotion.com

On St. Patrick's Day of this year, my family received news that changed my life forever. Our three-year-old daughter, Jane, had cancer. In the dark days following, we learned she had stage IV kidney cancer called Wilms tumor. It had metastasized to her both of her lungs, some lymph nodes and a vertebra in her spine. Before we could catch our breaths, Jane underwent 6 hours of surgery to remove the primary tumor and her kidney. We then embarked on three weeks of radiation and seven months of chemotherapy. Even now, these days are hazy and painful to contemplate. But in that toughest of times, people - friends, family, brothers - stepped in to lift us up.

People from all over the country reached out and asked us how they could help. As we watched the blood of strangers drip into our baby's body, the answer was clear: donate blood and platelets! In the crash course we've had in pediatric cancer, we learned that blood is vital to the battle. These tiny warriors literally cannot fight cancer without help from donors. Jane received three transfusions during her treatment and we met other children who received too many to count.

Our Sigma Phi brotherhood was up to the task. Brothers that came before me, brothers that pledged with me and brothers that came years after me all

answered the call. The words I spoke and sung as a young man living in the Bradley House came to life.

*"So with joyful speed
from far, hearts of sacred tie,
gather from life's dusty way
round our Sigma Phi."*

We ARE here for each other. These bonds DO last a lifetime. We are the Sigma Phi Society.

While our daughter's prognosis is good, the fight against childhood cancer rages on. Please donate blood and platelets whenever you can. Children like my Jane depend on you...and are forever blessed.

HAZING 101

by R. J. Lackey, S'86 rj@rjlackey.com

As General Counsel, I have been giving a lot of thought to the pledge process and Initiation since the much-publicized hazing incidents at Penn State, Wheaton College and Fordson High School in Dearborn, Michigan. As I reflect, I feel compelled to write about that topic.

Let me say unequivocally: **Sigma Phi Society prohibits hazing of any kind!** Hazing has no place in our pledge or initiation processes. It has no purpose. It is unbrotherly. It contrasts in an obvious and ugly way with the fundamental tenets of our Society: Friendship, Love and Truth. The path to brotherhood at each Sig chapters may be different based on that chapter's history and traditions, but **all** of us must continue to actively stand against hazing and any sort of endangerment.

After a series of talks with other brothers, both active and alumni, I have come to realize that, in order to continue to successfully guard against and prevent hazing, it's wise to be reminded of what it is. I accordingly ask each active who reads my message to refresh by doing an internet search of the legal definition of hazing in the state where he attends school. (Why? Hazing definitions vary from state to state.) For instance, Section 18.2-56 of the Code of Virginia provides this:

"It shall be unlawful to **haze, or otherwise mistreat so as to cause bodily injury**, any student at any school, college, or university. Any person found guilty thereof shall be guilty of a Class 1

misdemeanor, unless the injury would be such as to constitute a felony, and, in that event, the punishment shall be inflicted as is otherwise provided by law for the punishment of such a felony. Any person receiving bodily injury by hazing or mistreatment shall have a right to sue, civilly, the person or persons guilty thereof, whether adults or infants. The president, or other presiding official of any school, college, or university, receiving appropriations from the State treasury shall, upon satisfactory proof of guilt of any student found guilty of hazing or mistreating another student so as to cause bodily injury, expel such student so found guilty, and shall make report thereof to the attorney for the Commonwealth of the county or city in which such school, college, or university is, who shall present the same to the grand jury of such city or county convened next after such report is made to him."

Just following state law is not enough, however. Our actives must be knowledgeable of and strictly adhere to the definition of hazing found in their universities' codes of conduct, as well. These definitions are usually far more restrictive than state laws, covering things like humiliation, servitude, and scavenger hunts. And while those added activities don't have a significant chance of causing bodily harm, they are formally called out and can nonetheless result in chapter suspensions...and even member expulsions.

I OFFER ONE FINAL AND EMPHATIC REMINDER:

FORCED, COERCED, OR EVEN ENCOURAGED CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL, DRUGS OR ODD FOOD SUBSTANCES DURING THE PLEDGE PROCESS OR INITIATION IS STRICTLY AGAINST WHAT SIGMA PHI STANDS FOR. IT MUST NEVER OCCUR!

This is hardly a new instruction within Sigma Phi, but it is worthy of repetition.

I know of no Sig chapter where this is part of ritual or has any place in the chapter's non-ritual history, but I remind every reader of the importance of being on guard against such things.

We are our brothers' keepers, each and every one.



Never Forget These Brothers

These deaths have been reported to the Society since publication of the August 2017 'Flame'

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Ralph Gray Ainley, I'13..... | 11/20/1973 | Charles H. Heuer, W'42..... | 6/7/2016 |
| Monroe B. Allen, V'41..... | 2/21/2011 | Irving W. Holcomb, C'42..... | 11/6/2006 |
| William Brewer, Jr. W'40..... | 7/25/2016 | John Ingersoll, Jr. W'49..... | 8/25/2016 |
| David R. Burbank, L'25..... | 7/7/1983 | G. Stewart Johnson, M'40..... | 8/6/2017 |
| David F. Carpenter, M'54..... | 8/7/2007 | Lester Kissel, F'22..... | 4/21/2000 |
| Spotswood W. Corbin, U'27..... | 4/4/1988 | Charles F. Knight, C'54..... | 9/12/2017 |
| Robert Crane, Jr. W'40..... | 1/17/2017 | James P. Kressler, L'52..... | 4/15/2013 |
| William Cutler, W'47..... | 4/25/2016 | Richard Henry Lee, C'38..... | 9/16/2007 |
| Leverett B. Davis, W'33..... | 8/27/2014 | Richard E. Lloyd, I'41..... | 8/13/2017 |
| Tallmadge P. Delafield, Jr. C'29..... | 4/25/1998 | Howard Major, Jr. W'46..... | 8/13/2014 |
| Horton K. Durfee, G'43..... | 5/20/2017 | Charles L. Martin, M'63..... | 9/10/2016 |
| Delwin B. Dusenbury, F'35..... | 6/27/2002 | Robert Renwick, U'28..... | 11/22/2008 |
| John A. Engel, Jr. L'58..... | 11/16/2015 | William Taylor Rhoades, L'29..... | 3/27/2006 |
| Donald T. Fink, F'52..... | 10/26/2004 | Robert W. Surdam, W'36..... | 10/4/2002 |
| Jerald D. Fink, F'52..... | 8/1/2013 | Henry Swan II, W'32..... | 7/13/1996 |
| Robert Fisher, W'42..... | 6/30/2006 | Henry C. Todd, I'31..... | 4/6/2003 |
| David A. Gittleman, L'89..... | 8/19/2017 | Daniel R. Tomassetti, V'73..... | 1/12/2017 |
| Ralph M. Peter Harter, G'65..... | 8/24/2017 | Burton Lee Youngman, C'32..... | 1/11/1999 |

In Memoriam...

Brian Patterson, L89 bpatter604@comcast.net

Every now and then, a brother writes in to share news of the passing of another Sig. Occasionally, personal words of tribute accompany such notice. This one, from Brian Patterson, L'89, is a fine example of such caring Sig communication, across the miles and across the years:

"After a long and courageous battle with cancer, we lost our dear brother, David Gittleman, L'89, on August 19th, 2017. Always full of life, Git was often the center of our circle of friends and brotherhood. Fun-loving and adventurous, he squeezed the most out of life, including his family, work life, and friends. He is survived by his wife, Alex, and sons Daniel and James. Dave was a warm, smart, funny soul and we all miss him. His life was too short, but unforgettable. The sadness we feel is eased only by the memories of the joy of our time with our brother. We love you, Git."



KUDOS & THANKS

...to the following Sigs for their articles, information or encouragement supporting this issue of the 'Flame': Bob Guthrie, S'86, R.J. Lackey, S'85, Christy Lambden, T'11, Jacob Leebron, H'16, Brendan McCurdy, H'80, David Medeiros, C'17, P. J. O'Connell, F'89, Jack Romaine, L'90, Allan Smith, S'86, David Smith, T'17, George Snyder, S'78, & Lloyd Stamy, S'70. Special thanks must certainly go to David Ready, S'95, for sharing his excellent convention images.

Every written contribution as well as every recommendation for a story from any Sig is warmly welcomed. Each adds immeasurably to any issue of our 'Flame'. There is no substitute for hearing the voices of Sigs on the pages of Sig periodicals. **Thank you!**

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).



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, P.O. Box 57417, Tucson, AZ 85732-7417.

Editor: **Mike Imirie M'69**
mimirie@aol.com

Sigma Phi Home Page:
www.sigmaphi.org



NORTH-AMERICAN INTERFRATERNITY
CONFERENCE MEMBER



Sigma Phi **FLAME**

P.O. Box 54717
Tucson, AZ 85732-7417

Presorted
STANDARD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Tucson, AZ
Permit #2216

Encouraging You About Dues

by Bob Guthrie, S'86, Society Treasurer bguts123@sbcglobal.net

As reported during the 2017 General Convention at the Alpha of Virginia in Charlottesville, the Society's finances are holding steady this year. However, we still need annual dues payments from our undergraduates and alumni to solidify the Society's financial status as we move ahead into 2018. We have many initiatives to implement next year, and we need a strong financial base before we can begin. Thanks in advance for your continued support!

As 2017 draws to a close, some facets of our remarkable Society remain constant.

Brotherhood. Sharing. Expanded horizons. A profound and thankful awareness for the remarkable fraternal vision given birth by Brothers Bowie, Bowie, Cromwell and Witherspoon 189 years ago. And - oh, yes - an ongoing need for...your personal support.

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

If you haven't yet responded to your dues letter from Society Chairman Brendan McCurdy, H'80, please do so now.

(continued from page 3)

visible results of mentorship. Far beyond my recent experience, mentorship possibilities underscore the great need we have for our alumni to be involved in Sigma Phi. Great things happen when Sig alumni make time to get to know our undergraduate brothers and when undergraduate Sigs are able to rely on alumni to show up, to encourage, and - in important ways - to look after them.

Today, I finish with a request. On average, our Society has about 230 undergraduate brothers. These young men may not realize the power of having older brothers on whom they can call. If you have the time and the ability to help, to mentor, and to be a support for undergraduate brothers, please get involved! If you don't know how to get involved, reach out.

I'll be very happy to help.

(continued from page 4)

Most important of all, while we are working in the yard or in our basement or anywhere else, we understand that we are building something that benefits not just us, but generations of North Carolina Sigs still to come.



SIGMA PHI SOCIETY
ANNUAL DUES

Make checks payable to the Sigma Phi Society.
You may also pay online at www.SigmaPhi.org

\$500 \$250 \$100 other \$ _____

Base-level dues: \$75 (initiated 2006 and earlier) \$50 (initiated 2007 and later)

Sigma Phi Permanent Endowment

My additional gift of \$ _____ in support of the Sigma Phi Society Permanent Endowment is enclosed.

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work: _____ Mobile: _____

Mail your dues check payable to Sigma Phi Society to: c/o Sigma Phi; P. O. Box 54717; Tucson, AZ 85732-7417. Or, as always, feel free to make your dues payment online at: www.sigmaphi.org

Esto!