

Sigma Phi FLAME

NUMBER 124 • DECEMBER 2014

SIGMA PHI'S 173RD CONVENTION IN ANN ARBOR FOR MICHIGAN'S 50TH



From the Secretary:

'Home'

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

The 2014 Ann Arbor Convention was a blast. Thank you to all who could make it, and – most importantly – many thanks to the Michigan chapter for hosting us all so well. A convention-sized round of snaps is due to the folks who planned this event, particularly Convention Chair Jim Oshanski, M'75. Thank you, one and all!

Home. What does it represent for you? A refuge: a physical place in which you are safe and comfortable no matter how big and bad the outside world seems? Is home a place where the food is the most familiar: not always the best, but at least you know what it is you are eating? Is home your stomping ground, your launching pad, the place where you get to try new things and not get hurt for doing so? In

all of my ad-hoc definitions – and in the ones you might use – home generally has a lot to do with who we are today.

This concept of home is one of the themes that continually comes back to me in my work for the Thrice Illustrious. It is often the case that the Sigma Phi serves in this capacity at times when home is a long way away... or, in some cases, where there is no nuclear home at all. For many, the terms 'home' and 'Sigma Phi' are oftentimes synonymous. I have been privileged to hear many great stories and anecdotes from brothers on exactly this topic, and those stories warm my heart.

In that context, I have a question for you. What were the basic elements that brought you to a sense of home during your experience as an active brother with the Sigma Phi?

For some of us, coming home may have meant family dinners and good company. For others, it might have been the personal growth experiences which come from living with those you respect and look up to. And for still others, it may have been the well-practiced



Nate House, H'09

Sigma Phi customs of mirth and hilarity which ring exuberantly throughout this Society's hallowed halls.

It wouldn't surprise me if these examples only scratch the surface of your own story of home. Whatever your story is, I hope you'll take an opportunity now to enjoy a moment of reflection as well as revival. As an alumnus, is this sense of a Sig home something that is presently missing from your life? Is it important to have and to enjoy, even now? If your answer to this two-part question is 'yes,' what can this Society do to bring it back into your life?

Just as importantly, what can you do?

Esto!



KUDOS & THANKS ...

... to the following Sigs for their articles, information or encouragement supporting this issue of the *Flame*: Todd Campau, M'89, Pierce Oeflein, I'13, Gregor Nelson, I'76, Dave Pauls, M'65, Buck Robbins, M'57 & Steven Walraven, I'06. Special thanks are due Joe Xu, M'09, for his excellent convention images.

Thoughts, recollections and ruminations on 'all things Sig' are most welcome. They reflect well on those who offer them and – at the same time – shine a welcome light on their chapters. At the same time and more importantly, such contributions surely make each issue of the '*Flame*' more readable and more representative. For all of these serendipitous and Sigly results, your editor offers earnest thanks to each contributor.

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

Sigma Phi

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Building In Berkeley

by Steven Walraven, I'08 stevenwalraven5@gmail.com

When I assumed the position of California's Alumni President this past March, I knew that strengthening our membership would be the key to continuing our chapter's success into the future. My predecessor, Moses Cesario, I'89, refocused our chapter's resources on recruitment to great success. We're encouraged by our current undergraduate membership; it is very close to our target of 20 brothers. All are upstanding stewards of our West Coast base. Their career interests cover a broad range including, but not limited to, mobile-app development, investment banking, and film production.

Over the past few months, we have enjoyed a number of returning traditions. During the summer, the brothers at the Thorsen House (aka, Teakwood Towers) were hosts to many sorority guests because sorority houses shut down for the summer. Many sorority ladies choose to be tenants at 2307 Piedmont until their houses reopen in the fall.

Social events were scattered throughout the summer weeks, and each Saturday, workday was in full effect. Saturday workday is a longstanding tradition at the Alpha of California where brothers and summer boarders contribute to the house via a variety of

projects and chores. A typical workday begins with a hearty breakfast prepared by the House Manager. Over breakfast, that day's projects are divvied up.

In fact, many notable Thorsen House restoration projects of the past have started and finished on a workday. Most recently, the actives completed work on a new fence installed in our backyard that captures the spirit of the Craftsman Era and keeps out unwanted visitors. Led by the Project Committee that includes California Sigs from various decades, this project has added elegance and character to our home.

The sheer size of the Thorsen House can make even the simplest of projects a challenge. We commissioned a local Thorsen House enthusiast to begin restorations to the copper gutter draining system. Distinguished by its stunning green patina layer, this project stretched over several weeks to ensure over 150 feet of copper piping maintains its historical charm.

As the summer wound down and brothers got back into the swing of fall semester, the game day barbecue tradition reemerged. Game days are always a great way to reunite with old friends and make new ones. I always look forward to the

pregame Sig spirit in the backyard.

Each month, actives and alumni gather for a lunch in San Francisco. They discuss current events, share Sig memories, and talk about how the Alpha is doing. This is a great way to stay in touch with brothers still living in the area and a welcome way to break up the work week. Around the holidays, we try to do something special to celebrate the season as well.

Thanks to our extensive network of alumni, the benefits of Sig membership don't end at graduation. The challenge before us at California is to find innovative ways to expand and enhance these connections, both professionally and through Thorsen House projects. My vision for our chapter's future is to build a culture where alumni support undergraduate Sigs as they prepare for and navigate within successful careers. Beyond our brotherhood, I also hope to set up more social events to introduce our families and friends to the house and to the organization that has been so important to us.

The California chapter continues to build a bright future within Sigma Phi. I hope that everyone will have a chance to make it to the Teakwood Towers one day.



Convention 2014

'50 Years at the Phi'

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

This year's annual convention – the Society's 173rd – was held in Ann Arbor over the weekend of 3–5 October. Billed by the host chapter as a celebration of "50 Years at the Phi", it marked the 50th year that the 'new' Sigma Phi Place at 907 Lincoln had served as the Society's campus home. (The chapter dates back to 1858, so the term 'new' is certainly relative...)

In preparation for the event, the Sigma Phi Place had been renovated throughout the preceding summer. Alumni donations had accounted for new carpeting, paint, lighting, flooring and furniture refinishing. The Place fairly sparkled!

Numerous wandering birds – many of them, Society leaders – had made their way to Ann Arbor by Thursday night. In fact, brothers would travel from as far away as Milan, Italy (Sarp Oklap, M'01) and even Dubai (Ryan Johnson, M'99): a distance of 7,000 miles!

On Friday, joint business sessions were held by both the Society and the Sigma Phi Educational Foundation. Concurrently, 22 undergraduates representing eight chapters took part in AM and PM workshops on two different topics: 1) chapter operations (risk management, rush, strategic planning) and 2) improved ritual.

When the day's business had concluded, meeting/workshop participants gathered at the Sigma Phi Place for a catered barbecue. The evening menu, featuring ribs, pulled pork, chicken, salad, muffins and baked beans, was a definite crowd-pleaser. A hubbub filled the air at 907 Lincoln as growing numbers of alumni gathered, shaking hands, making toasts and examining aging composites. (Jere Roberts and Ed Mack, M'62, discovered their senior year composite in sad repair. They wasted no time in spiriting that vintage



Sig sharing was a hallmark of Convention '14

composite away for restoration at a nearby Ann Arbor frame shop!)

At 9 that evening, a unique and memorable Convention highlight – the Hicks Oratorical Contest – took place. This cornerstone convention event was held at the nearby Friends Gathering House, and convention-goers marched down Hill Street in droves. As many as 80 guests were on hand to enjoy. This year's oratory featured six undergrads representing six different chapters:

Union, Michigan, Wisconsin, California, Virginia and North Carolina. Each speech was poignant and personal. Benefactor Oliver Hewlett Hicks, V'1869, doubtless looked down from the Pearly Gates and smiled ... Jack Kim, M'12, was judged the winner by a panel of four alumni. His story about Sigma Phi sustaining him through 18 months of compulsory military service in his native South Korea was powerful.

On Saturday morning, the Stand-



The 'Goodnight Song' rings out across the hall

ing & Advisory Committee hosted the Annual Meeting of the Members: a ‘state of the Union’ type report open to all convention-goers. It was followed by a late-morning brunch which the staff of Ann Arbor’s Campus Inn – headquarters for Convention ’14 – handled with aplomb. The afternoon was left open for convention-goers to explore the U of M campus. A small reception was hosted at the Sigma Phi Place by David Pauls, M’65, for those Sigs who were among the first to live at the new Sigma Phi Place in the mid-sixties.

50 Years at the Phi



907 Lincoln

The Convention Banquet convened at 6 P.M. at the time-honored Michigan Union. Toastmaster Mark Kraushaar, M’78, artfully focused the banquet crowd of about 115 actives, alumni and guests as plates of beef, chicken and vegetarian delight were served. A special appearance by the University of Michigan’s Glee Club All Star ensemble – the Friars – provided high-spirited musical entertainment.

The evening’s program was highlighted by a keynote address from Ed Mack, M’62, who served as Head of



2014 Hicks Orators: 6 Brothers, 6 stories

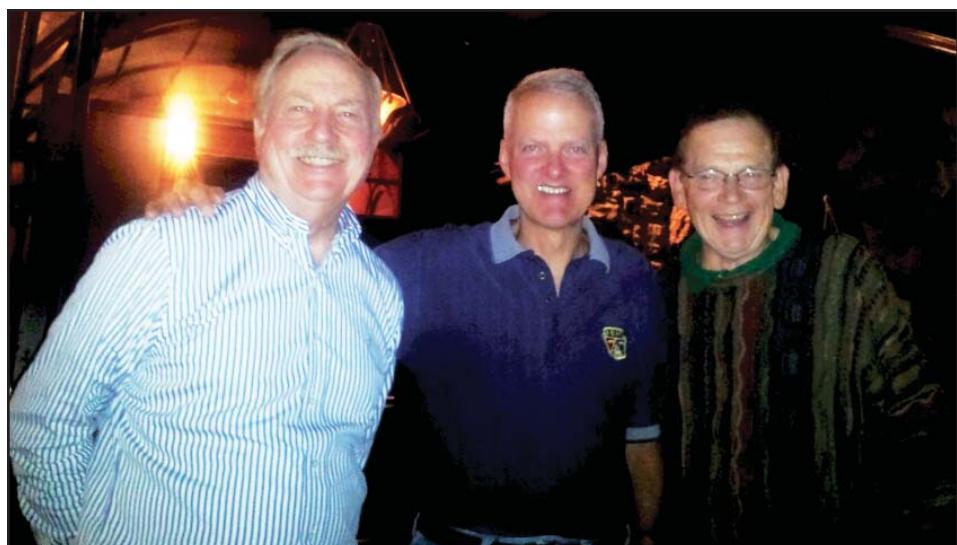
House when the chapter first moved to 907 Lincoln. It also included words of reflection from Hicks winner Jack Kim, M’12, as well as presentation of the chapter’s Gray Conger Distinguished Service Award to Michigan stalwart Ernie Sellers, M’77. There was a salute to the Sig Sisters in the room, acknowledging the special magic they add to all Sig occasions. Another grateful acknowledgement was made to the senior Sig in attendance – Jim Talman, M’36 – who had made the drive from his home in Sewickley, PA, with his daughter, Christine.

Finally, Convention Chairman Jim Oshanski, M’75, was lauded for tireless convention planning and energetic fol-

low through. Serious snaps to Brother Jim in 2014 ... and *all* Sig convention chairmen and banquet organizers, everywhere.

This year’s banquet concluded just ahead of 10 P.M. with all 115 banquet-goers standing hands-on-shoulders and lifting their voices to sing ‘The Good-night Song’ throughout the hall.

While the Society’s parting song formally signaled the end of the Ann Arbor Convention, the 2014 gathering was another warm, poignant proof that the experience of Sigma Phi goes on and on and on – *esto perpetua* – for all who are willing to be part of such heart-warming, generation-after-generation posterity and sharing. ☈



George Mercer, M’68, Sam Moore, F’70, Dan Neumann, F’71

Convention: What they Said

Everyone had something to say about Convention '14. Selected participant impressions are shared below.

Bob Bednas, M'60: "I could wax eloquently about the various venues, Friday night's ribs, the free spirit, comradery, and energy ever present throughout the weekend, but the single most impressive takeaway for me was The Hicks Oratorical Contest. All of the oratories were excellent, unique, and exemplary reminders of who we are and the ties that bind us together." bobbednas@gmail.com

Jon Bergner, S'03: "I was especially moved by the story Hicks winner Jack Kim, M'12, shared at the banquet. The story itself was tragic but it was more so the fact that this young man felt moved to share the experience with a large room full of people he had never (or just recently) met. I was glad that he felt comfortable doing so. It struck me that we as a Society speak often – and with great justification – about the good times we share with each other. It is equally important to remember the value of sharing the bonds of FLT in our darkest times as well. Life can be full of pain and suffering and it is nigh impossible to face it alone. And we don't have to." jon.bergner@gmail.com

Malik Farr, F'13: "I had a phenomenal time at Convention '14! Coming from a smaller chapter like Wisconsin, it was terrific being surrounded by both young and wise members of our Society. Because Wisconsin is fairly young right now, absorbing the knowledge and leadership skills will be a great benefit; I am excited to implement new practices. It was encouraging to see senior Society members reach out to younger Sigs and offer words of wisdom to overall better our chapters. My time at convention gave me a much stronger sense of what this Society strives for and all the opportunities it offers." mfarr@wisc.edu

Bob Mersereau, M'74: "I came away from the Standing and Advisory Committee's general meeting on Saturday with a renewed appreciation for the good work that the society's volunteer officers do for us. On the chapter level we often lose sight of how important the S&A and the Sigma Phi Education Foundation are to the long term success of our Society. We sometimes complain about the chapter dues to the national, and as alumni, we sometimes forget to pay



our dues to the S&A and make a contribution to SPEF. Meeting the people that keep our national organization strong was a highlight of the convention for me." mersereb@yahoo.com

Garrett Owens, U'12 "Overall the highlight for me was competing in the Hicks Oratorical Contest. I found it exhilarating. More importantly, it was incredibly gratifying to speak in front of brothers young and old and tell what Sigma Phi really means to me." owensg@union.edu

Jim Pollock, M'77: "I was most impressed by the fact that the House at

907 Lincoln looked outstanding!! It is a tribute to all those who worked so hard and gave of their time and money to help. The actives deserve a shout out for the work they did to get things looking so good. My strongest impression was at Saturday night's dinner when Ernest Edwin Sellers Jr., M '77, was brought to tears upon receiving the Graham Conger Distinguished Sig Award. It was a very appropriate and personal moment; I've only seen Ernie brought to tears ONCE in the over 50 years I've known him."

jim@pollockinvestmentadvisors.com

Alex Pundyk, C'14: "In reflecting on the 173rd Convention, my most profound takeaway is the shared pride in the Society, despite the vast disparities in location, size, standing, endowment of the various chapters, and – perhaps most importantly – age. The sense of import demonstrated by the budding Carolina Sigs was reflected equally by the well-established brothers of the Alpha of New York. I'm a newly-inducted brother of the Epsilon of New York and – in conversation with brothers twice or triple my senior from chapters across the country – I came to realize the unanimous reverence for the ideals of this Society, and the way in which we as individuals are shaped by the organization."

ap33pds@me.com

Jere Roberts, M'62 "What impressed and encouraged me the most was the diversity I saw in convention-goers. Having taught law school for 43 years and having more than half of my student body during the last 25 years made up of licensed lawyers from all over the world, I have strong views about the necessity of diversity ... and its value to future generations." jeremare@msn.com

Otis Skipper, T'13: “To have such a wide array of people come together for a Clave with Sigs from across the country spanning different decades was a truly incredible experience. While the room was full of laughs and allusions to various chapter jokes, my favorite experience came shortly after roll call. A moment for remembrance of a recently passed Sig was requested by Brother Bob Mersereau, M’74. Immediately following Bob’s suggestion, the entire room fell into singing ‘Never Forget the Brother.’ At this point, everyone shared a common thought, and the song became a unifying experience. Concluding the song I felt moved and inspired by what had conspired.”

otisskipper@gmail.com

Steven Walraven, I’06: “We Californians had a wonderful time meeting and reminiscing with our Sig Brothers in beautiful Ann Arbor, MI. I distinctly remember a conversation with several Virginia and Michigan Sigs, sharing stories of conversations with non-Sig Greek alumni. Specifically, how they refer to their experiences in the past tense (“I was a DKE.”), but Sigs always respond ecstatically in the present tense (“I am a Sigma Phi!”). We look forward to sharing what we learned at 907 Lincoln with our Brothers at the Teakwood Towers in Berkeley. It’s clear to us that our organization’s values and talented members are all that is required to prosper for nearly 200 years and beyond ... long live the Phi!”

stevenwalraven5@gmail.com

Tom Witecki, M’59: “This was the first time in my 55 years as a Sig I have attended a convention. I was extremely impressed, as were many other senior Sigs with whom I spoke, with the quality of the talks by all the competitors in the Hicks Oratorical Contest. Truly impressive performances by all those young Sigs!”

witecki@cox.net



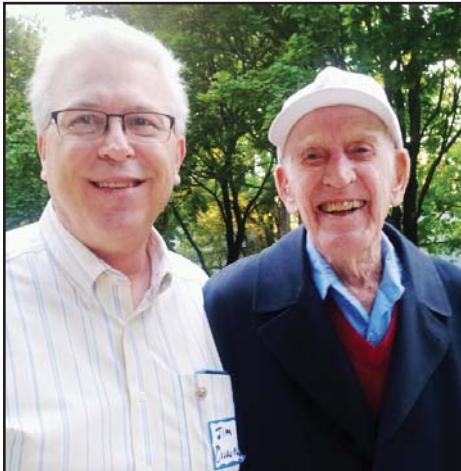
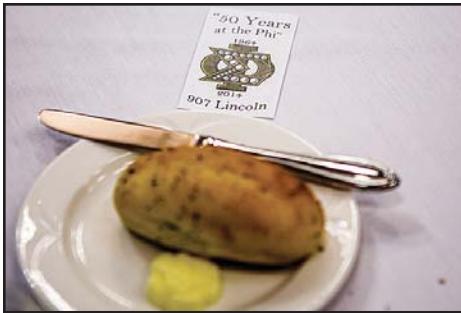
Ed Mack, M'62, chatting with Jim Talman, M'36 (far right) and Jim's daughter, Christine



S&A Business Meeting on Friday



Vintage composite consultation in progress!



Convention Reflections

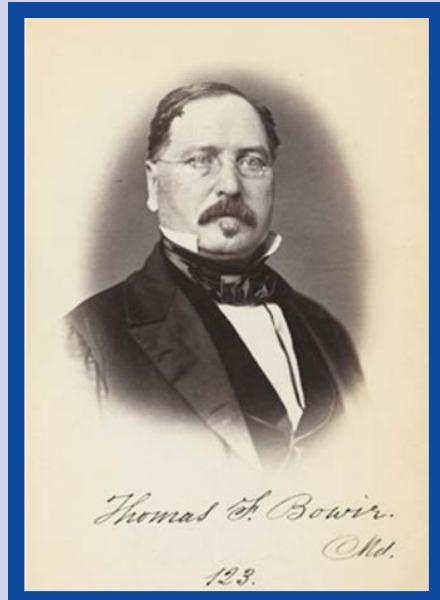
by Buck Robbins, M'57 b_robbins@comcast.net

Bowie, Bowie, Witherspoon & Cromwell would have been proud. Had they been able to make the journey to Ann Arbor, BBW&C they would have been mightily motivated to answer this question: "What has become of what we started so many years ago?"

From their 19th century perspective, after all, they couldn't have known what life would be like for members of Sigma Phi in the 21st century. For that matter, as they winged forward in time, those wandering birds wouldn't even know that Sigma Phi existed today. They had such hopes, of course. After all, they did gift us with that very hopeful phrase *'Esto Perpetua'* ...

In the 19th century, BBW&C were captives of what they knew of their time, just as we are in the 21st century. They lived in an America which was primarily rural; they couldn't have *imagined* today's urbanization. They or some of their forward-thinking contemporaries might have seen storm clouds gathering for a Civil War ... but a World War I or World War II, the Great Depression, new rights for all citizens, nuclear power, computers, cell phones and ISIS would not have crossed their minds. Talk about a steep learning curve!

However, as the illustrious founding fathers/wandering birds landed in Ann Arbor and began recovering from the post-traumatic stress of their travels, they would have certainly been proud. Their spirit – the founding spirit of 1827 – would have been everywhere on display convention weekend in Ann Arbor. It would have been evident at convention meetings and discussions. It would have been



noticed in the events of the 50th anniversary of the Sigma Phi Place at 907 Lincoln. It would have been made oh-so-clear as six young men poured out their hearts at the Hicks Oratorical Contest. It would have been manifested in the lives and relationships of all the participants. In short, our founders would have seen clear and convincing evidence of what they had created throughout the weekend.

And BBW&C would have recognized this Ann Arbor convention for what it was: brotherly love, respect and affection across a diverse slice of humanity from at home and abroad. The convention gathering welcomed Sigs from across the country and around the world, addressed a number of different issues and accommodated a number of different agendas employing the very same spirit of Friendship, Love and Truth first offered up by our founders in 1827.

In no time at all, Bowie, Bowie, Witherspoon and Cromwell would have felt right at home in Ann Arbor this past October.



2014 Hicks Oratorical Contest: 'Military Service Points to Sigma Phi'

by Jack Kim, M'12 kimbyjun@umich.edu

(The 2014 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 six different chapters took part, wearing their hearts on the sleeves as they waxed eloquent about Sigma Phi. Four alumni judges deliberated immediately afterwards, formally evaluating all six speeches. Jack Kim, M'12, was judged the winner of this year's contest.)



Hicks winner Jack Kim, M'12

My name is Hyeongjun Kim. I am known as 'Jack' among my Michigan brothers, and I heartily welcome you to the Alpha of Michigan. This is my first Sigma Phi convention and words cannot describe how grateful and excited I am for this opportunity to make another illustrious memory with all of you.

Although my way of speaking may seem unconventional, I assure you that this is how I talk pretty much all of the time. Two years of serving in the army in my native Republic of Korea might have influenced it, as well. As you may have noticed from my real name and facial features, I was not born in the same nation as you. Of course, my native language, cultural background and sense of humor are quite different, too. I am proud to say, however, that I share one very important trait with all Sigs; I am your brother.

I didn't feel that way when I first joined Sigma Phi freshman year. During

pledge term, I succeeded in memorizing a bunch of information about older brothers, chapter history, and Sig songs. Thanks to my Asian brain, I had no trouble memorizing or regurgitating, but I'm afraid my heart didn't memorize. All this 'Lead or die' and 'FLT' sounded more like cliché; it didn't ring a bell with me. It was like a bunch of people in the street saying 'Carpe Diem' or – for my generation – 'Yolo,' without assigning any real meaning. When older brothers asked me why I wanted to be in Sigma Phi, I just told the truth: "I'll be living here next year ... and it's cheaper than living in a dorm."

At the end of my freshman year, I had to return to Korea to fulfill mandatory military service. I was stationed in a sustenance support Army unit under the 3rd Logistics Support Command. What I did was move 100,000 MRE boxes, shovel mountains of snow from a soccer field and many other chores. Did I like it? No. When you are surrounded by

officers who treat you as nothing more than an expendable construction robot and sergeants with big egos and small minds, you don't enjoy it one bit. There was only one thing that kept me going as I set up rows and rows of 24-personnel GI tents and helped build concrete walls: I want to go home.

Wait! What? Home? Where?

After all, I had once explained that Sigma Phi was my home because it was 'cheaper than living in a dorm.' During my time in the Korean Army, a far bigger truth dawned on me. 907 Lincoln is where my dear friends are. During my time of military hardship, my longing for the company of those dear friends grew bigger and bigger. Visiting the Facebook page of our chapter and reading about what was happening at the Alpha helped me endure.

Ten thousand miles away at 907 Lincoln, my friends waited for me. No matter how goofy, irresponsible, or unpunctual (Continued on page 10)

Foundation Update:

'Restructuring at Vermont: Strategy for Success'

by David Pauls, M'65, President, Sigma Phi Educational Foundation davendavid@sbcglobal.net

Sigma Phi Society's Renaissance Program continues to deliver vital solutions to our chapters. Since its inception in 2010, Renaissance has largely been financed by the Sigma Phi Educational Foundation. A recent success story from the Alpha of Vermont – a story which most definitely has 'renaissance' as its message – provides the most recent example.

One year ago, the Alpha of Vermont was reeling. The active chapter had just been derecognized by the University. The actives were placed on both academic and social probation, having "earned" the worst grades of any fraternity on campus. Undergraduates living in the house had been reduced to just a handful of officers, and the physical structure had been repeatedly abused by inappropriate social activities. Matters had reached a demoralizing low and the alumni worried that it was time to simply retool. Since Renaissance Program Coordinator Scott McCrae, V'82, resides in Burlington, he made himself available to offer Renaissance's well-developed approaches to address the Alpha's issues.

The Alpha of Vermont has a tradition of strong values and striving for excellence. This includes academic excellence, community service and maintaining a highly functioning chapter. A common phrase today, highly functioning means that all elements of an organization are running well. Vermont's vision is to make the undergraduate experience excellent once again by refocusing on strong values promoting excellence. It is important to note that the Society's famed Benedict motto – 'Lead or Die' – originated at the Burlington Alpha.

The Alpha of Vermont retooled itself by starting with a vision. In fact, the leading maxim of Steven Covey's "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People"

is: 'Begin with the End in Mind.' Implementing the Renaissance Program's Strategic Planning and Goal Setting element accordingly came first. The alumni and actives decided that they wanted to be the premier fraternity at the University of Vermont. The chapter then set about defining what that would look like and how to get there.

Next, the alumni realized that a dedicated alumni corporation board was needed, with younger members willing to execute the steps for success. New alumni were invited to serve, each with new talents and connections. This Board has taken measures that will ensure that the Alpha of Vermont is high functioning now and into the future. Example? Crafting a strategic plan which extends to 10 and 20 years. Another? Creating a new Buildings & Grounds Committee to proactively deal with the physical plant. The central Chapter Advisor's position was converted to a paid position with a formal job description. A new undergraduate lease was written covering liability, chapter house protocols and risk management. Importantly, the alumni board now meets at the Sigma Phi Place once each month.

Third, the alumni board collaborated with the actives to define what it means to be a Sig at UVM. This is the first step in Renaissance's values-based dynamic recruitment model. In concert with alumni, undergraduates set specific criteria for the new men they were seeking as brothers. They then methodically sought and found the men who shared their vision and values. The result: 15 talented new members over two semesters! The Vermont chapter had not recruited this many men in an academic year for decades. But the large recruitment number is only part of the story; the high quality of the new men is the real triumph. Significantly, the chapter



learned to recruit well in a planned, systematic and persistent fashion, effectively executing rush with a mind to continuous improvement.

After a robust, groundbreaking 2014 fall rush, the Burlington chapter will have 40 brothers going into spring rush. At Vermont's September annual meeting, there was much discussion over whether the chapter was getting too big. What a great problem to have!

More good news? Because leaders and scholars were recruited, the chapter morphed from worst to first in campus GPA. And Vermont has an academic plan to keep it that way.

Fourth, the chapter set about filling house officer and operations positions with new men best suited for the jobs. Defining house positions with clear job descriptions and expectations was key. The steward's position was reinstated and the kitchen operations were retooled so that brothers can eat together again. The new house manager has already had notable success with keeping the Sigma Phi Place clean and in good repair. The recruitment chairman understands how

(Continued on page 11)

Foundation (*Continued from page 10*) to execute the new dynamic recruitment process while also training a younger protégé to take the reins next year. Other officer positions are filled with talented, caring brothers willing to work on stakeholder relations, public relations, and IFC and other organization participation.

New plans are being instituted bringing back key lost traditions like buying badges, meeting protocols and restoring the chapter's "Cat's Tale" newsletter. With the help of the Sigma Phi Educational Foundation, the chapter created a "New Member Education Guide" teaching both Sigly lore as well

as such pragmatic topics as time management, our values proposition, house positions, recruitment and the structure of the Sigma Phi Society National. The chapter has set the goal of having a high number of Viele Scholarship applicants this year ... and ensuring application quality by providing alumni help with supporting paperwork.

Finally, the Alpha of Vermont is shifting its culture. In addition to high academic performance and stewardship of the house, much attention is being paid to the concept that the undergraduates, the alumni and the university are a 3-part team with a common vision and purpose. Most importantly, the

alumni corporation understands that things can go wrong rapidly, especially if interaction between undergraduates and alumni wanes. Vermont alumni believe the new system will help keep them on track, allowing them to build on success. By all indications, the newly rejuvenated Alpha of Vermont is on an upward trajectory.

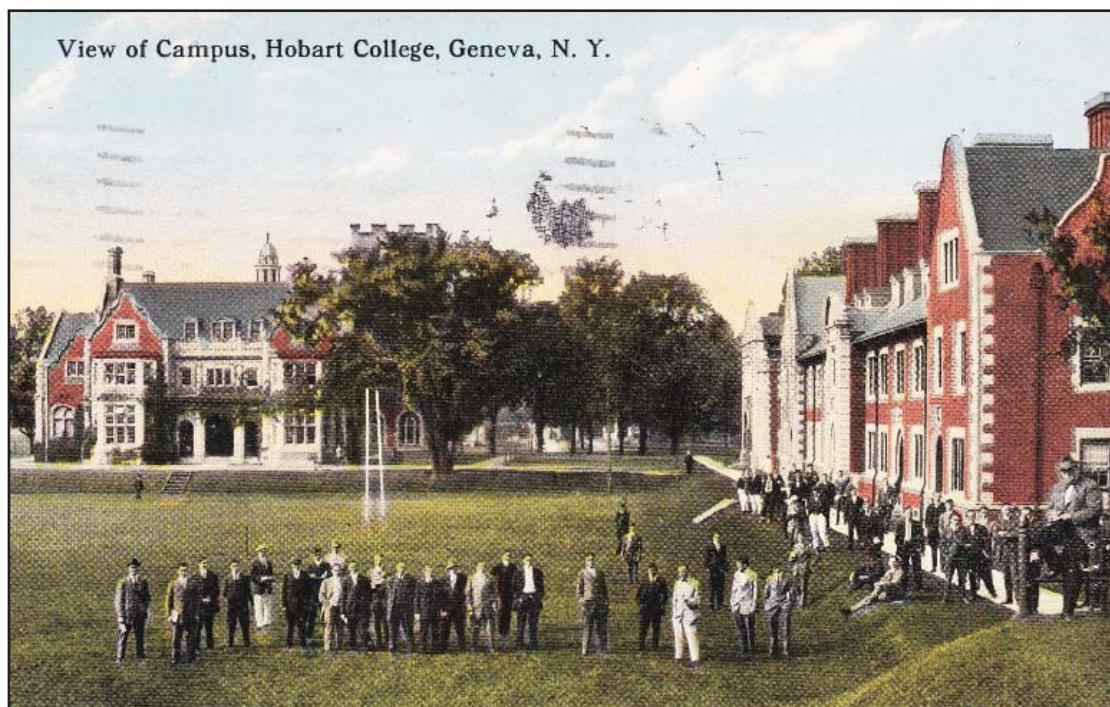
Over time, all Sig chapters wax and wane. At the Burlington chapter, the Society's Renaissance Program has dramatically moved chapter stakeholders from a frightening waning ... to a waxing of the most promising and Sigly kind.

... Esto perpetua. ☘

Vintage Hobart View –

This circa-1922 postcard shows the Hobart Campus of old. The area in this view is called the Quadrangle, only a stone's throw away from our Western Lion's Lair. In 1922, the student body was exclusively male, as this view suggests. In 1938, first year courses were held in common with the women of William Smith College. (Did you know that the University of Virginia and Williams College didn't go co-ed until 1970? Or that Lehigh was all-male until 1971?)

View of Campus, Hobart College, Geneva, N. Y.



Hicks (*Continued from page 9*) I act, my brothers accepted me just as I am. No nagging about how I should behave! Together, we can listen to our favorite music, enjoy the excitement, talk about girls and be carefree. Again and again during my military service, I wanted to return there. I wanted to **be** there.

And then it dawned on me: the thing I hadn't understood while pledging: home is where you want to be. It doesn't matter if you are not born

in that country and if you have to show your passport instead of a driver's license to be identified. If you feel safe, relaxed and happy ... if you have someone who loves you ... if you feel like you belong in a certain place, that's your home.

My brothers, I cannot recite songs or names as well as you can. I've even forgotten some of the names of our founders and some of our chapters' call letters! But, better than ever, I am certain I know the essence of the Sigma

Phi philosophy. I yearned for good friendships during freshman year, longed for my dear Sig brothers when I was in the army, and now I am truly back. And I say right here with all my pride that my friends here are my authentic "FLT," "Lead or Die," and 'Esto Perpetua,' all rolled up into one. You see, ladies and gentlemen, I finally found my home.

Thank you for listening to my story.



Donors to the Sigma Phi Educational Foundation's 2013 Annual Campaign

What follows is the list of donors to the Sigma Phi Educational Foundation's 2013 Annual Campaign. It is presented by donor recognition group, in descending order of donor gift size. Where several donors give the same amount, they are presented in chapter order.

Silken Tie

\$500 & above

Roy Park's Triad Foundation, C'13

Derek R. Fredrickson, V'94

David W. Pauls, M'65

James E. Welsh, M'39

Milton K. Woodhouse, F'38

Scott A. McCrae, V'82

Patrick J. Brill, S'53

James Dong, I'09

Peter B. Orthwein, C'65

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Timothy E. Nagle, S'68

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Ronald Schmaedick, F'56

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Charles E. Schmeling, F'75

Jay Ralph, F'78

David Strasburg, F'85

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California Sigma Phi Society,

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Robert P. Turner, C'39

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William F. Breg, U'72

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Ralph L. MacDonald, Jr., W'60

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Matthew G. Boylan, F'96

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Michael John Fisher, U'80

Richard J. Osius, M'56

Scott S. Johnson, S'92

SKY-SCRAPERS OF PHILADELPHIA

1 Real Estate Trust Co.,	-	235
2 Betz Building,	-	201
3 Drexel Building,	-	135
4 Provident Building,	-	153
5 Girard Trust Co.,	-	190
6 Hotel Walton,	-	199
7 Odd Fellows' Temple,	-	145
8 Aldine Hotel,	-	134
9 Independence Hall,	-	151

10 Masonic Temple,	-	350
11 Stephen Girard Bldg.,	-	175
12 Penn Mutual Building,	-	200
13 Witherspoon Building,	-	168
14 Crozer Building,	-	184
15 Land Title & Trust Co.,	-	213
16 Fidelity Life Building,	-	177
17 Harrison Building,	-	160
18 Heed Building,	-	100



2015 Flagship: Philly-centric

After its 2014 stop in Manhattan, the Society's flagship March Fourth Banquet moves down America's East Coast to the City of Brotherly Love for 2015. While venue and cost details are still in the planning stages, this Sig gathering will take place on **Saturday, March 7**. If you're in the greater Philadelphia area, it's not too early to make a calendar note even now. If you're outside of that geographic area but a great fan of Sigma Phi's annual Founders' Day event, notate your calendar, too! Per Charles Thorn Cromwell, red ink is recommended ...

The 'Dog Days' of Sigma Phi

by Todd Campau, M'88 toddndallas@hotmail.com

I'd always wanted a dog of my own, but – to this point – military travel requirements kept me from adopting. Those commitments have greatly curtailed recently and I decided to foster a rescue dog from the local animal shelter. Don't know what compelled me to go to the shelter last Sunday, but I'm glad I did.

There he was, sitting quietly in his pen while all others around him were anxious and agitated. Those soulful eyes. That easy expression. That look. I spent an hour with him that day and decided that – if I adopted him – I'd call him Angus.

One hour wasn't enough to convince me to adopt a dog. Such a decision would represent a huge lifestyle change for me, but I had a sense that it might be time. I returned to the loud, aromatic animal shelter Monday, Tuesday and again on Wednesday. Each day, Angus was more comfortable with me, even rolling onto his back and showing me his belly. That four-year-old red stray had me hooked.

Thursday came and I decided it was time. Although not yet a full on adoption, I brought Angus home to foster. We're making slow steps toward doggie interaction. It's clear to me that he loves people. He's not very social with other dogs yet. The worn away hair and scar on the top of his neck tells me he was probably chained up in a backyard and forgotten in his previous life. How could that be possible with such a warm, loving dog?

I didn't know why I was so taken with Angus. I tried to recall times in my past where I had a similar interaction with dogs. Then it hit me: Siggy, one of the house dogs at the Alpha of Michigan when I was an active! How many brothers remember him?

While Siggy was only a house dog, I believe there were times when he was the wisest and most mature active member of the house! Sig was a smart one and would take us for walks, often pausing at intersections for guidance. We'd only need to point right or left and he'd trot off in that direction. Sig loved to take naps, too; he and Angus have that in common.

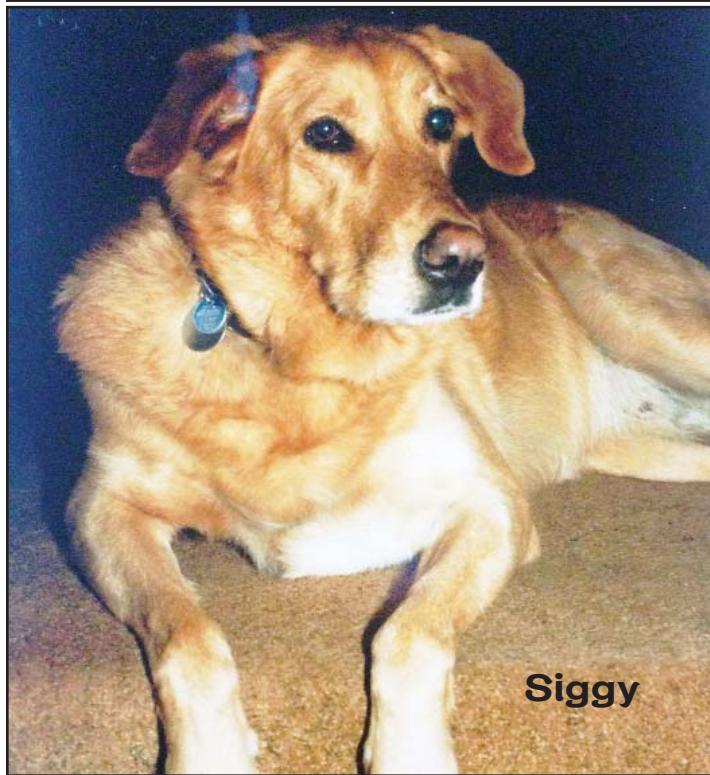
Sig, a blond lab, was photogenic and had his own personality. He was certainly the 'alpha male' over Phideaux, a springer spaniel who was our other house dog. Although my local animal shelter considers Angus a Hound mix, I see great similarities between Siggy and my new friend.

Never considered that a dog would take me back to those years at 907 Lincoln, but that's exactly what has happened. My connection with Angus is growing stronger. My connection to Sigma Phi will never wane. Both are integral to my life.

(Update – it's official, I formally adopted Angus this past Wednesday (Oct. 29) after his medical check up. One week with him and I'm a changed person. Strange, isn't it? The patient shelter dog is the perfect fit in my life. Angus represents a step forward for me while reminding me of the past. Yeah, the perfect fit.)



Angus



Siggy

Sig Heroes in Manhattan

by Mike Iimirie, M'69

mimirie@aol.com

We first learn about the value of service within Sigma Phi in a darkened room under solemn circumstances. In all the weeks that follow that pivotal day, Sigs are expected to take the value of service to heart. The Society feels strongly enough about emphasizing that value that it commissioned an award to recognize alumni service some years ago. Named after a 1970 Virginia initiate who demonstrated that value well during his life, the David S. Brown Service Award is presented to honor Sigs whose work in serving others within the Society is in the best traditions of our initiation commission.

For 2013, the David S. Brown Service Award was presented to two Union Sigs who have embodied service over and over again ... in two entirely different ways. Len Kagan, U'66, and Pete Smith, U'67, have been stellar fixtures in Schenectady for decades. Len, a retired Manhattan obstetrician, and Pete, a real estate attorney who practices in Gloversville, New York, have returned to Union for pledge installations, alumni board deliberations, and meetings with College administrators ever since they left the hallowed halls with degrees in hand. Over the years, they have reached hundreds of young Alpha of New York prospectives with wisdom about Sigma Phi ... and active, personal encouragement about the membership decisions that the hopeful young men have made. At the same time, they have been instrumental in helping the Alpha weather campus storms which fundamentally changed Greek life at Union.

In addition to exemplary participation as alumni, they

have gone a step farther ... as very likely the Society's most accomplished ritualists! Ever since the passing of General Secretary Wink Mayer, L'10, in 1974, Schenectady Swings have featured one or both of those brothers in primary luminary roles ... and their performances are as electric and credible as they are wry and lighthearted. Each has committed Society ritual to memory and each is an accomplished dramatist. Anyone who has enjoyed a Schenectady Swing sees a membership ceremony exactly as author Chester Averill, U'1827, intended it.

In ceremonies couched within the Society's 2013 Flagship Banquet in Manhattan's Three West Club this past March, Society Recognition Chairman Dan Neumann, F'71, presented the traditional engraved silver bowls to both brothers. A formal introduction to the accomplishments of the Schenectady duo was made by Steve Smith, U'68. Steve – another very active Union alumnus – knows the truth about both honorees and shared a good and unvarnished portion of it! A strong contingent of Union undergrads was on hand and the Club fairly rocked as the formal presentation was made. Len's wife, Kara, and Pete's wife, Jane – Sig Sisters, both – were on hand to applaud their husbands. Both Sigs made brief, appreciative speeches afterwards.

Lovely, appropriate recognitions like this one remind us that Sigma Phi loves its heroes. Len and Pete would be the first to demur at being labeled thusly, just as they would be the first to recognize and applaud the service mandate that Wink Mayer emphasized so clearly so many years ago.



2014 David Brown Service Award honorees Len Kagan, U'66 (left bowl) and Pete Smith, U'67 (right bowl) surrounded by well-wishers from the Alpha of Alphas in Manhattan.



News of INTEREST

At press time, **Tom Bleezarde, H'54**, and his wife, Jude, were looking forward to attending the Williams Sigs' annual mid-November Homecoming Weekend banquet. This year's event was to take place at the toasty Williams Inn on Main Street in Williamstown. Tom, who edited Williams' alumni magazine for 32 years, is a regular at such gatherings. He enjoys the strong Sig participation numbers and the fellowship in equal measure.

tomjude@roadrunner.com

We have this tranquil update from **Chris Garcia, C'78**: "We're finally getting settled in Greenwood, a small town between Charlottesville and Waynesboro, Virginia. I was called as rector (pastor) of Emmanuel Church, a Greenwood parish, on 1 October 2013. After our son graduated from high school in June, my family joined me here. Kids are both off to college now, so Cheryl and I are enjoying life as empty-nesters. We're loving life in the Blue Ridge after 12 years in the DC suburbs."

cmg221153@gmail.com

"One of my favorite pastimes is growing apples," writes **Chuck Heisinger, F'76**: "In 2004, I planted an orchard up at the Evanston YMCA summer camp in Fremont, Michigan. Marshall and Patti Solem, F'79, and my wife and I have attended family camp there for a number of years, so it was an easy connection. The more impressive connection – a distinct and Sigly one for me – came when I learned that the new camp director at Fremont is none other than a youthful Bernard Rocca, grandson of long time-California stalwart **Bernard Rocca, I'34**."

chuck@heisinger.org

George Mercer, M'68, recently earned 'Host with the Most' honors. He and his wife, Connie, MSS'86, hosted five Sigs and spouses at their Lake Michigan retreat over the weekend of 17 October. On hand to enjoy the Mercer Beach Barn in Saugatuck were **Tom Clair, M'69**, **Bill Middlekauff, M'69**, **Tom Thornhill, M'69**, and **Mike Iimirie, M'69**. Collectively, they marveled that friendships which began at the Michigan Alpha so long ago had spanned 45 years and more. In that context, Bill was overheard to sagely observe, "*Swift the happy hours are flying!*"

gmercer@gmhlaw.com

Left Coast Sigs love their Bears, if the rabid behavior of **Tim Moran, I'76**, is any indication. Brother Moran (right), is shown in this October photo with **Rich Hennum, I'75** (center), and a non-Sig friend at the annual Cal vs. Oregon game. While the game didn't end well for the Bears (59–41), it marked a visit to world-class Levi Stadium in

Santa Clara – home field

for the San Francisco 49ers – as well as the 476th Bears sporting contest that Tim and Rich have enjoyed together in the years since they became Sigs.

Timothy-moran@sbcglobal.net

We have this report from the Society's Pacific Rim Bureau, via intrepid reporter **Andy Putnam, M'05**: "As of July, I have relocated to Tokyo, in a new role for Apple. Japan has often been called home by Michigan Sigs, and this year is no exception. **Max Monson, M'07**, has also recently taken up residence in Tokyo, leaving behind his English teaching gig in northern Aomori to try his luck in the software game. **Todd Hargrave, M'05**, is busy spreading his roots to the south in Kumamoto. He is happily married and can often be seen chasing around his lovely daughter, Alice, who will turn two

in January. We three Ann Arbor alums will hold an "Alpha of Japan" Sig gathering later this month; we are still trying to determine why Rochester Hills, MI, has produced so many Sigs and why so many of them have decided to make Japan their home. I had the pleasure of sharing a few (ahem) ... Pepsi Colas with **Jon Sabol, M'01**, on a warm summer evening in late August. While the distance between Tokyo and 907 Lincoln is great, the bonds of Sigma Phi remain strong across the Pacific."

andrew.d.putman@gmail.com



Tim Moran, I'76, right; Rich Hennum, I'75, center (a non-Sig at left)

Ron Randall, V'55, routinely pays Sigma Phi Society dues. With his 2014 payment, that gentleman included a brochure which highlights both his livelihood and his passion: a one-of-a-kind rare book store in Santa Barbara, California. Located in a circa-1825 historic adobe house, Randall House Rare Books has become one of the pre-eminent rare book businesses in the USA. Ron delights in showcasing rare books, presidential autographs, books and maps about exploration and voyages, western Americana and rare bibles. Learn more about this remarkable enterprise located in a National Historic Landmark at this URL:

www.RandallHouseRareBooks.com

George Snyder, S'78, has been involved up to his Sig eyeballs in the

renaissance taking place in Charlottesville. He shared this late October update for the UVa chapter: "The Alpha of Virginia is about halfway there in its re-population efforts. After a strong showing last spring, swinging 14 new brothers, emphasis this year is to match or better that success. Under the leadership of rush chair **Will Rupp, S'14**, brothers added two upper class pledges this fall, so they are on their way. More additions are expected during first-year rush this spring. Truly, things are looking up for the Alpha, thanks in no small part to efforts of S&A Secretary **Nate House, H'09**, and leadership of house president Mac Dunmire, S'13 ... but mostly to the spirit that lives in all of us, from the newly initiated to the eldest." George is one of many Serps who continues to be motivated by the warm and powerful example of the late **Jim Jenkins, S'58**.

georgenicholssnyder@hotmail.com

Generally, we hear about moms who do for their children. Retired banking executive **Lloyd Stamy, S'70**, has turned that time-honored equation on its ear ... in a most delightful way! That Sig's mother, the former Barbara Lee Owens, was an accomplished singer in the 1940s. Talented as a vocalist as well as a radio talent, she hosted a weekly radio program on Pittsburgh's KDKA – *Songs You Love to Hear* – showcasing the era's Broadway show tunes. Lloyd's gift to his mom – and to the music-loving world – involved him locating his mom's 67-year old broadcast discs and wire recordings ... and mastering them to CD. So far, he's mastered three CDs worth of materials. Another three discs are planned. All are being released on the American Songbook label and all are available at Amazon and via iTunes. The apple doesn't fall far from the tree, of course. Our talented Serp brother participated with UVa's Glee Club during his time on campus as baritone soloist ... and recently returned to that Club's 143rd Annual Dinner as the keynote speaker!

lloyd.stamy@gmail.com



Lloyd Stamy, S'70, and the former Barbara Lee Owens ... his lovely mom!

David Sweeney, V'02, isn't getting any sleep, but it's for all the right reasons. Why? He and Alexandra became parents for the first time on 5 October, when Caidran Willow Sweeney was born. The new Sweeney (and nocturnally noisy) trio makes its home in Alexandria, Virginia.

david.sweeney1@gmail.com

Fred Tucker, S'93, attended Convention '14 in Ann Arbor with his wife from their home in the Pacific Northwest. Ever the deep and deliberate Sig thinker, Fred came away from the weekend waxing poetic about what he saw and enjoyed: "*I saw a Society of*

dreamers who have made so much become reality. I witnessed the courage of a Brother who I admire for both his talent and his bravery. I enjoyed inspiration from a Brother I admire for living a life so many dream of but do not have the will nor courage to pursue. And I benefited from the wisdom of a Brother who continues to give and find meaning in a Society of wildly diverse individuals. Each time I am invited into the fold, I am not certain why I have been given the gift of membership. But I am very grateful."

fctiv@me.com

In news of the **Small World of Sigma Phi**, **Don Twiss, S'60**, reports that he and **Clint Day, I'61**, still enjoy one another's company. Don's Vero Beach (FL) location and Clint's Sarasota (FL) address might suggest that such continuing friendship makes great geographic sense, but – in the best traditions of Sigma Phi – it's far more than just geography. In fact, Don was a 2nd Lieutenant at Signal Officer Training School at Ft. Gordon, GA, when he met Clint. Both were enjoying some repose at the Officers Club, called – what else? – the Dot Dash. Space was at a premium that evening. While both were seated at the same table, the two were strangers. As they sipped, they made small talk. In short order, Clint offered that he had gone to college at UC Berkeley. Having graduated from UVa, Officer Twiss couldn't resist asking: "You aren't a Sigma Phi, by any chance?" "In fact,"



Don Twiss, S'60, is at center. Clint Day, I'61, is to Don's left.

replied Officer Day, "I *am*," as he extended his hand in a subtle but familiar grip. Both Sigs went on to lead men in the Viet Nam conflict, and they've been stellar friends ever since. Clint still arranges a low-keyed annual Vietnam veterans reunion in Florida.

dltwiss@yahoo.com

"In mid-August," writes intrepid Sig boater and adventurer **Chris**

Williamson, V'79: "we decided to try something moderately foolish. We drove from the shores of Lake Champlain to the shores of Lake Minnetonka – a 2,700 mile journey – to test drive and buy a collectable Donzi X18 Classic speedboat (out of production since 1979), then trailer it back to Cedar Beach: all in 66 hours! My brother, Mark, served as main wheel man in our Armada, son Jamie was the digital producer of the event's very own movie trailer and I acted as the financier and

first-string brat eater. (This *was* Wisconsin, after all.) The three of us spent a lot of time feeling overwhelmed by the sheer size of the Badger State: its geographic size, the size of the entree servings, the size of the average person and – *oh!* – the size of the massage and cheese billboards in the middle of

Wisconsin's verdant corn fields. My son's trailer of our odyssey is on YouTube; search under "Donzi X-18 trip," you should find it. The Donzi is now safely stored at Westwick Camp at Cedar Beach, waiting for the 2015 boating season."

westwick2014@gmail.com



Williamsons everywhere you look! Chris, V'79 (left), son Jamie, brother Mark



Administration, Addresses, and Keeping In Touch!

Betty Bartolotta, shown here, is not a Sig. She performs a truly vital Sig function, however. Betty, you see, is the administrator in the Society's administrative office in Chapel Hill, and a more diligent, dutiful and invested administrator there never was!

When the events of your life cause a change in your mailing or e-mail addresses, Sigma Phi wants very much to remain in touch. Share that important communications news promptly by going online to the Society's website at www.sigmaphi.org. Or, now that you've been properly introduced, you can instead give the lovely and invariably helpful Betty a call at 1-800-861-7023 or email her at bbartolotta@sigmaphisociety.org

The Art of Sigma Phi

Some brothers have an uncanny 'feel' for Sigma Phi: an ability to interpret her uniquely. Layout wizard Gregor Nelson, I'76, has long been one of these. His ability over the years to use his remarkable (mind-bending?) artistic abilities to explain and enhance the Thrice Illustrious has been a blessing for readers of The Sig Bear for decades. This past March Fourth Banquet in Berkeley, Gregor brought his art to bear once more. He created a songbook for the brothers to use that night and adorned it with this image (right). His muse was 'The Little Fairy – of course! – and



the source for this Sigly execution was an old bookplate found in a tome of Art Nouveau design. Shazam!

gregor@ndesign.com

The Legacy

by R. Pierce Oeflein, I'13

Pierce.oeflein@gmail.com

I distinctly remember a family road trip when I was younger where the Oeflein family visited Milwaukee, Wisconsin, my father's birthplace. After stopping in Milwaukee, we drove to Madison to visit the University of Wisconsin, where my dad went to college. In many respects, being a Badger during the early 1970s was just as turbulent as being a Bear in California. Amidst the tear gas and protests, my dad found himself in an illustrious Society known as the Sigma Phi.

I remember visiting the house as my dad recounted stories of the mirth and enrichment he enjoyed – and continues to enjoy – with fellow Badger Sigs. He told my brother and me of the devastating fire that occurred in 1972 while he was living there. To underscore that story, he winked as he lifted up a hinged seat in the main entryway, revealing his initials in white paint. Long ago, Dad had personalized the paint job he had performed with fellow brothers as part of Wisconsin's reconstruction.

I remember asking him about what all he did in the fraternity, and what secrets there were, if any. Even decades later – even when his son was asking – my father was resolute. He said that he could not tell me because he had made a vow to keep the secrets of the Sigma Phi safe, and that they would go to his grave. This was a shock; my dad never kept anything from me. To be kept in the dark over something that was so long ago was foreign – even jarring. It made me curious. I had no way of knowing then that years later I would fully understand the experiences that my father still cherished and held so dear.

During my first semester at Cal, the idea of a fraternity had no appeal. In fact, I refused to even visit the Thorsen house when we went to Berkeley to check out the campus after I was admitted.

My dad never expected nor pressured me to join a fraternity. He did suggest I check out Sigma Phi at least once, if for nothing more than to see its excellent architecture. In order to appease him, I went up to the house and was given a short tour by (then) president Alexander Nadal, I'10. I was invited to a Monday night dinner. I planned on going so I could get a free meal and tell my dad that I had sufficiently checked out his fraternity, and so I invited a new friend from the dorms to accompany me in order to relieve the pressure. This friend happens to now be the current president of the Sigma Phi and my dear pledge brother, Nicholas Austin, I'13. It wasn't until almost the end of the semester that I had decided Sigma Phi was the place for me. While I tried as hard I could to resist, something magical about the California chapter kept bringing me back. It just felt right. Luckily, the brothers at the time had a mutual feeling about me. I initiated the following semester.

But the new bond I had formed with my father never really resonated until he came to visit on March 4, 2014. Being able to swap Sig stories and secrets was very fulfilling for me. My dad and I learned a lot about each other in a brand new dimension, and I know that it strengthened our father/son relationship in a new way. It empowers new conversations and interactions throughout the years that would otherwise not be possible. I look forward to future visits from him – and to the certainty that our bond will continue to grow.

Being a legacy has impacted me greatly, and I suspect it has impacted my dad, too. My decision is a constant reminder of the power and fortitude of the Sigma Phi, and the lasting impacts it has on its members. I am so glad to be one of them.

(Pierce's proud father is Rob Oeflein, F'69.)



Never Forget These Brothers

These deaths have been reported since publication of the September 2014 'Sigma Phi Flame.'

Charles T. Bates, H'50	1 August 2014
Edward J. Bennett, Jr, H'51	7 February 2014
J. Terry Brune, G'59	29 March 2011
W. W. Woods Davis, G'56	13 February 2014
James S. Dissel, W'46	9 March 2014
Richard C. Eitel, F'64	13 May 1999
Romeyn L. Everdell, W'39	3 January 2013

John Joseph Fenton, C'58
Paul M. Hughes, G'64
Malcolm Magruder, C'47
Henry DeWolf Pope, H'49
Richard A. Schwab, W'43
Keith S. Wellin, H'48
14 September 2014



Sigma Phi FLAME

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Attention Brothers::

2014 Dues Notice

While 2014 marks 187 years of this venerable 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!

Website Renovation: In Progress ...

The Society's website – www.sigmaphi.org – is now undergoing substantial renovation.

Across the board, features and appearance are being changed to promote the way this medium serves Society communications needs.

Even the most vivid and cosmic improvements won't mean a thing, of course, if you're not yet on board and in the loop. Accordingly, all e-mail using Brothers should definitely sign up at <http://www.sigmaphi.org/>. Sigs should also feel free to share content like writing or photos as well as any ideas about what the website should be and should do. In addition, we want users to point out issues as those issues present their annoying, glitchy selves.

It will take some time for the new website to be up and running and fully fleshed out, so – for now – the main thing is to register on the site so that you can periodically receive Thrice Illustrious news, queries and notifications.

Should you have questions or suggestions, please direct them to interim webmaster
Rob Foglia, L'93 at: robert.l.foglia@gmail.com