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Sigma Phi

flame

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“Why My Sig Batteries are Charged”: A Year On the Road for Sigma Phi

by **Christy Lambden T'11, Director of Development**

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The editor of the *Flame* - Mike Imirie, M'69 - asks me the same question every time I see him: “As busy as you are, are you managing to keep your Sig batteries charged?” When I last saw him, I processed the question for a while and then realized that the simple answer was “Yes!” There are many reasons for this, but the most obvious reason is simply...I get to spend so much of my time engaging Sigma Phi brothers.

Over the course of the last 15 months, I have visited every undergraduate chapter. I have spent time with hundreds of alumni. I've learned this core truth about Sigma Phi brothers; there is no 'cookie cutter' Sig, but inherent in every brother that I have met is an enduring and lifelong commitment to values of Sigma Phi. I would like to share just a few of my stories from the last year.

The Alpha of North Carolina's undergraduates continue to lead the way in their support of sexual assault prevention. This year they organized a march of over 300 people to raise awareness of sexual assault, raise funds for the Orange County Rape Crisis Center, and host important conversations for members of the Greek community about how they can be more effective allies.

A stellar, committed group of alumni at the Alpha of Wisconsin has proven to be a personal inspiration for me. A core group of 5-10 men has been supporting the undergraduate chapter for decades. Their unwavering commitment and resolve to support the Madison chapter and its undergraduate members is a great lesson in service for all of us.

I have experienced a lot of joy - real joy - when I witness alumni and undergraduates coming together for the good of our Society. This has been most evident recently at the Alpha of Virginia chapter. Just two years ago, our numbers had slipped to single figures in Charlottesville. The Alpha's latest swing class of 13, however, is just the most recent example of a reinvigoration that has led to a chapter size of over 30 excellent brothers. This return to prominence is made more special because it was achieved by the coming together of Sigma Phi brothers from different chapters and different eras, all of whom answered the call for support.

The recent social events, dinners, and March 4th Flagship Banquet hosted by the national organization in the Bay Area, Los Angeles, Atlanta, and New York City demonstrated what we already knew to be true. You and I find new and wonderful friends by connecting with brothers we didn't previously know.

As I reflect on this year, the biggest takeaway for me has been that there is no single way to serve the Society or the values Sigs share. My experiences have assured me that, while the faces of Sigma Phi brothers may change every year, the spirit of Sigma Phi, the passion and fervor with which its members participate, and our focus on service to each other and the communities we are a part of....are unchanging.

It is an incredibly exciting time to be involved with Sigma Phi. I look forward to hearing stories from many more brothers about their Sig experiences over time. Our engagement and continued commitment to Sigma Phi is what sets us apart. My experience suggests emphatically that it is what makes Sigma Phi such a rewarding organization to be a member ofand to work for.



Society Changes

SERVICE PROVIDER

by David Pauls M'65, Society Executive Director

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For over 14 years, the Sigma Phi Society engaged Gilchrist Alumni Management Associates (GAMA) in Chapel Hill, NC, to provide fundamental clerical and financial support services. The GAMA office became the defacto "national headquarters" of the Society where many Sigs encountered the friendly and gracious Betty Bartolotta answering their requests. In early 2016, both the Society and GAMA evaluated the relationship and decided to part company.

A search for a new service provider found Fraternity Management Group (FMG) in Tucson, AZ. with a contract negotiated in late January for a price lower than charged by GAMA and our previous tax return preparation provider.

FMG has enhanced capabilities including:

- A wide range of highly qualified personnel with long experience in the various aspects of fraternity management from database maintenance to publications to very successful fundraising.
- A virtual office structure which allows it to use the best qualified service professionals no matter where they may reside, all connected by phone and the internet. When the Sigma Phi phone number is called, a call may be readily transferred to the most appropriate person to answer the caller's request, whether it is a FMG person or a Sigma Phi Society national or local officer.
- A single point of contact through a Sigma Phi exclusive phone number (520-777-3055) and post office box (PO Box 57417 Tucson, AZ 85711-7417).
- Robust database services featuring up-to-date software to more comprehensively track both alumni dues paying histories and donations to the Sigma Phi Educational Foundation (SPEF). The

new database software accommodates multiple addresses and phone numbers for a brother, an important function we need to fully implement our parent outreach strategy for our undergraduate brothers.

- Financial services for both the Society and SPEF covering bookkeeping, bill payment, invoicing chapters, a payroll system, a regular set of monthly financial reports, and tax return preparation.
- Strong coordinated fundraising services include running annual dues drives and Foundation campaigns. Most importantly, FMG has an excellent track record in running major capital campaigns like the one we are planning to implement in the near future for both the Society and SPEF.
- Comprehensive publication services that include publication planning, procuring articles from Sigma Phi brothers, design and layout, and printing and mailing. Mike Imirie, M'69, will continue his role as the editor of the Flame, the focal point of our publications.
- Event planning and management services.

The initial function FMG provided to the Society was the first dues notice letter of 2016, sent out in late February, which achieved outstanding results.

FMG was started by a Kappa Sigma from the University of Arizona who saw a need within his own fraternity for a commercial venture to supply management services to local Kappa Sigma chapters. Once their system for servicing chapters was built out, local chapters of other fraternities soon engaged FMG. Sigma Phi Society is the first national fraternity to use FMG services.



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 85711-7417.

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Sigma Phi Home Page:
www.sigmaphi.org

My First FOURTH

by Jim Decker T'11
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“I had never celebrated the Fourth of March.”

Preposterous. Maybe even blasphemous. I know. But members of the young North Carolina chapter have no history of celebrating the founding date as a group nor any nearby gatherings to join. So at that time of year, our attentions were always focused instead on the looming basketball season finale against Duke! Desiring to rectify this gap in my interactions with the Sigma Phi, I jumped on the 2016 opportunity to attend when I learned the annual banquet would be in my post-graduation home of New York City.

After a Thursday night filled with bar-hopping with Sigs in town and staying up late to welcome three Tar Heel actives who would be sleeping on my limited apartment floor space, the morning of March 4th dawned in Manhattan. I traded my normal casual Friday attire for a suit and headed to work. Eager for the event and working only a short walk from the Society's banquet hall, I was the very first Sig to arrive at India House. I reclined on a comfortable armchair for some time until event organizer (and my pledge brother)

Christy Lambden, T'11, arrived and we found our 3rd floor ballroom. While Christy set up a registration table, I made a beeline for the open bar and mingled with the Sigs and their dates who were trickling in. I had met some of them at two different conventions during my undergraduate years, but most faces were new.

There was a wide range of ages present, as well as representation of every active chapter plus Lehigh, yet conversation flowed smoothly from one person to the next. From recent Vermont grads to septuagenarian doctors to a brother who happened to have worked in my niche industry of financial regulatory reporting, everyone had a unique experience to share. And yet, there was so much common ground! I was very aware of a shared Sig bond that wiped out any barriers to approaching and speaking to men twice or thrice my own age. It was an enlightening, enjoyable cocktail hour. We sat down to dinner, each table a mixture of young and old from a variety of chapters. The food was good, but the speeches were excellent. The recipient of the Elihu Root Distinguished Sig Award, Robert Harri-

son, C'73, was able to improve upon an excellent introduction by Jay Walker, C'84, and eloquently share what Sigma Phi has meant to him over the years.

When dinner at India House concluded, a great many attendees adjourned to the nearby Ulysses Bar. Sigma Phi quickly took the place over, everyone in much jollier spirits than before dinner, and we talked late into the night. I particularly enjoyed watching a group of L'88 - '90s reuniting and celebrating, picturing myself in their place in 20 years with many of my old friends. That is one of the things that makes Sigma Phi special: a young man can interact with older men who have been in precisely his shoes before. He can learn from their stories, involving both mistakes and successes, and envision himself doing in life what they are doing in five years...or in fifty.

Saturday morning dawned much too early. Having agreed to represent the Tar Heel chapter to the S&A, I dragged myself to the address of 20 Vandam Street in SoHo. It was Nanz Hardware Company, owned by Steve Nanz, H'80, who had

continued on page 17



S & A Committee deliberations in Manhattan on March 5th.

GROWTH & PROSPERITY

in Ithaca

by Robert Berstein C'94

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Greetings from the desk of the Epsilon! As I write this letter, I am on my way to Ithaca for a meeting at Cornell just before the semester ends. I am in Ithaca five to six times a year, and always look forward to a visit with the actives and alumni at 1 Forest Park Lane.

Sigma Phi is deeply ingrained in my life, as I know it is in yours. I have served on the Board for the Epsilon of Sigma Phi for the last 15 years and have seen many new generations of Sigma Phi thrive in a house with the same values and traditions we all hold deep.

Last fall, I received the great honor of becoming the President of Epsilon Association, Inc. (Epsilon's alumni association) and follow in the footsteps of many dedicated Sigs, including most recently Paul Patti, C'74, and Brad Wheler, C'73.

We have an amazing group of Sig alumni who dedicate an enormous amount of time to the Epsilon and the Sigma Phi Place. They are talented and energetic and bring unique perspectives to important matters, especially relating to our university relations and financial and administrative operations. Michael Koby, C'93, a venture capitalist, is our Treasurer, and Peter Lallas, C'96, an U.S. Assistant Attorney General, is our Secretary. Derek Burrows C'00, general counsel of an Ithaca-based technology company, leads our inspection committee. Jake Kramer, C'98, a leading corporate lawyer in DC, leads our fundraising efforts with



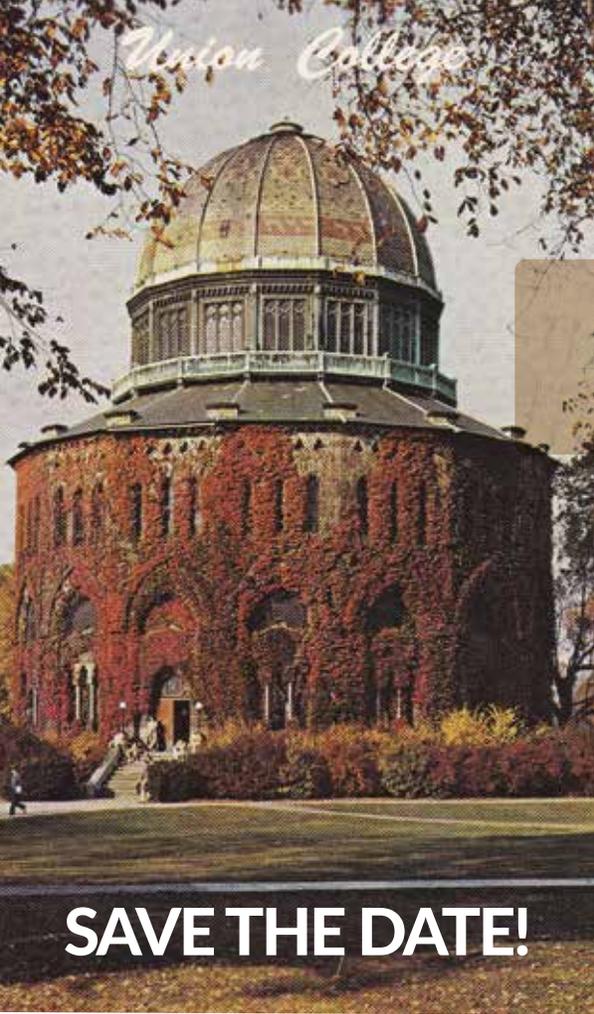
Dan Mansoor, C'79. At the same time, our seasoned alumni volunteers remain very active, providing both vision and gravitas. Andre Jaeckle, C'71, spearheads our long term strategic plan (see article in the fall 2015 Flame) and Peter Flynn, C'66, serves as our architect and head of building and grounds committee. Rusty George, C'82, represents the Epsilon on the S&A and leads our scholarship committees.

Cornell University continues to grow in complexity, creating more challenges for Greeks in navigating physical plant improvements as well as day-to-day support for necessary financial and administrative matters. Our crack alumni team is taking a hands-on approach to streamlining our work with the University, and we are making good progress working through

“the Big Red tape” to enact our longer term initiatives. Over the last six months, we have restored elements of our first floor in terms of both physical plant and furnishing updates. This summer we will be tackling more mundane but important upgrades to the fire system.

Sigma Phi continues its leadership on campus. Membership of the house remains very healthy led by Brian DeStefano, C'15, Head of House. We had a very strong pledge class this year, putting the house in a great position for membership for the fall semester of 50 actives with 38 of those living in the house (including five seniors).

At all levels, our brotherhood continues to thrive. We are excited and remain committed to continue our collective efforts for the Epsilon's growth and prosperity.



Convention 2016 in SCHENECTADY

by Len Kagan U'66

A recent "Pepperbox" article written by Tim Carpenter U'95, described a common theme: how our busy lives "sometimes get in the way." I sincerely hope that you are planning to journey or return to the Alpha of New York for the Society's fall convention, and that you'll not "let life get in the way" of the special Schenectady celebration.

The Society's 2016 Convention begins on Friday, October 7th and concludes on Sunday, October 9th. Events include lunch on Friday, a barbeque Friday evening followed by the Hicks Oratorical Contest (to be held in Nott Memorial), a Conclave at 10 Union Street, business meetings of the Society and Foundation and Saturday's Convention Banquet.

The Convention session will be held in Old Chapel on Saturday morning followed by lunch. There will be free time on Saturday afternoon to enjoy Union's football game or rugby match. If there is sufficient interest, we may be able to tour historic old Schenectady...or host a Sig Sister Swing. (Call me at 631-499-0592 if you would like to participate.)

Convention festivities conclude with a three course sit-down banquet, preceded by one hour of open bar at the Doubletree. During the banquet, Steve Shultz, U'68, will be presented with the David S. Brown Distinguished Service Award. This award was instituted in 1999 and until now has only been bestowed upon 17 brothers.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Doubletree at a reduced rate of \$169 per night. Additional accommodations will be available at The Days Inn at a reduced rate of \$80.95 per night (\$71.95 if you plan to arrive on Thursday) All rooms will have 2 double beds, so two of you can share one room. A buffet breakfast is included at both hotels.

My wife and Sig Sister Cara (USS'78) and I are co-chairs of the Convention. We would appreciate it if you would make your hotel reservations early, so that if additional rooms are needed, we would have time to obtain them at the reduced rate. And don't forget to mention "National Sigma Phi Convention" for the best rate. Additional information regarding Convention will be forthcoming online at www.sigmaphi.org.

Even though "sometimes life gets in the way", I hope that you will use this opportunity to journey to the Alpha of New York. All brothers, wives and partners are of course welcome. Call members of your pledge class, your Little Brother or your Big Brother. Become a Wandering Bird this October, willing to set aside your concerns stemming from "life among the World's People" and enjoy the comradery that can only be found among the members of The Thrice Illustrious.

Remember the story in The Catalogue about the smell of coal gas in the Pepperbox. Percival J. Parris, U'1870, wrote of that odor: "it never fails to take me back to the mood of those halcyon days when the dear old Sigma Phi held everything in life worth having." Together, brothers, let's re-create that feeling this October at The Alpha of Alphas.

SAVE THE DATE!

Friday, Oct. 7th - Sunday, Oct. 9th

Convention fee \$175.00

Spouse, Partner, Guest \$125.00

Banquet only \$85.00

DOUBLETREE HOTEL
518-393-4141

DAYS INN
518-370-3297



Unlikely Exposure: RENEWED DEDICATION

“The Tarheels have a bright future ahead of them, and they are headed there quickly.”

by Dave Northacker L'77 dnorth@fnal.gov

A series of random but fortunate coincidences has allowed me the opportunity to re-establish ties to Sigma Phi. My renewed connection came at the hands of the Society's two southeastern chapters and the Union chapter, as well. It was an unexpected consequence of some work a UVA professor asked me to do for the University, and it has left me with experiences to last a lifetime.

In early 2013, an offer came through from the UVA Physics Department for a temporary position. I'm a scientist with a physics specialty, and I immediately accepted. The prospect of the job being located on campus meant that I would have an opportunity to revisit the Serp house: a place I was first introduced to as an undergraduate one blurry convention weekend in 1980.

After saying 'yes' to the offer, my first objective after arriving in C-ville was to proceed directly to the Sigma Phi Place at 163 Rugby Road, stand on the front steps, and look up at a superb example of 19th century style architecture. Finally, after what seemed like an eternity since my last visit to any chapter, I was able to reach out and touch a real live Sig house!

It was spring break and nobody was home. After a few days, I went back. The brothers had returned, so I was able to go in and provide a little entertainment for the troops. At first they didn't know what to make of a Sig from long ago and far away – and a Lehigh Sig, at that! After awhile, however, they could see I was a Sig just like them: only with a different set of experiences....and from a different century.

While my “real” work with the University lasted a couple of months, some restoration work I ended up doing on the house lasted a few more weeks. Working on the Serp house was an opportunity I couldn't pass up. (You never get tired of polishing a fine ornament!) Just about every aspect of the Place has an air of distinction rarely found in more modern structures.

In keeping with the long-standing tradition of utilizing available university resources to enhance the outward appearance of the house (the “platinum porch” being the most notable example), during my work a very modest quantity of tools and materials were temporarily borrowed from UVA's Physics Department. Many thanks to the high-energy group, specifically, for both their humble generosity and their sandpaper.

My time at UVA also allowed me to meet dozens of Serp alumni from each of the last five decades. This was a unique experience, it provided me with an unparalleled glimpse by an “outsider” into Serp history and culture in Charlottesville. Words cannot describe my appreciation to the chapter for helping to facilitate my visits to the school, and also helping to make my experience with UVA one of the most positive and productive interactions I have ever had with an employer.

One visit to UVA during that period coincided with the big “fox-fields” weekend held at the University. Thousands of UVA alumni descended on Charlottesville for the event. In a more Sigly context, the Union chapter makes an annual appearance at the Serp house, as well. It was great being

able to meet many of the actives from the Union house; seeing their creative enthusiasm for having a good time was both refreshing and entertaining.

A couple more visits to the Alpha coincided with meetings held ‘on the road’ by the UNC chapter. Prior to my involvement with UVA, I actually had no idea that this circa-2008 Sig chapter existed. At one point, a handful of Serp actives told me they were going to a meeting with the UNC chapter, and asked if I wanted to join. Once I grasped the idea that there really was a “new” Sig chapter, I was glad to come along.

When I first encountered the UNC chapter, it was a surreal impression. It was as though I had been sent to a distant planet and left amongst friends it seemed like I had known for years. Meeting the men of our Tarheel chapter was a wonderful experience, and seeing a new Sig chapter full of enthusiastic members reminded me of the feeling I got when I first joined the Society many years ago. The Tarheels have a bright future ahead of them, and they are headed there quickly. I wish them all the best of luck as they begin building their own unique traditions that will subsequently be handed down to younger brothers many decades from now.

I look forward to revisiting both the Serp and the Tarheel chapters, and maybe even a few more. There are those 3 I haven't visited yet, after all... Why? Because every minute I have ever had or invested in a Sig house - any Sig house - has been time exceedingly well spent.

service: why?

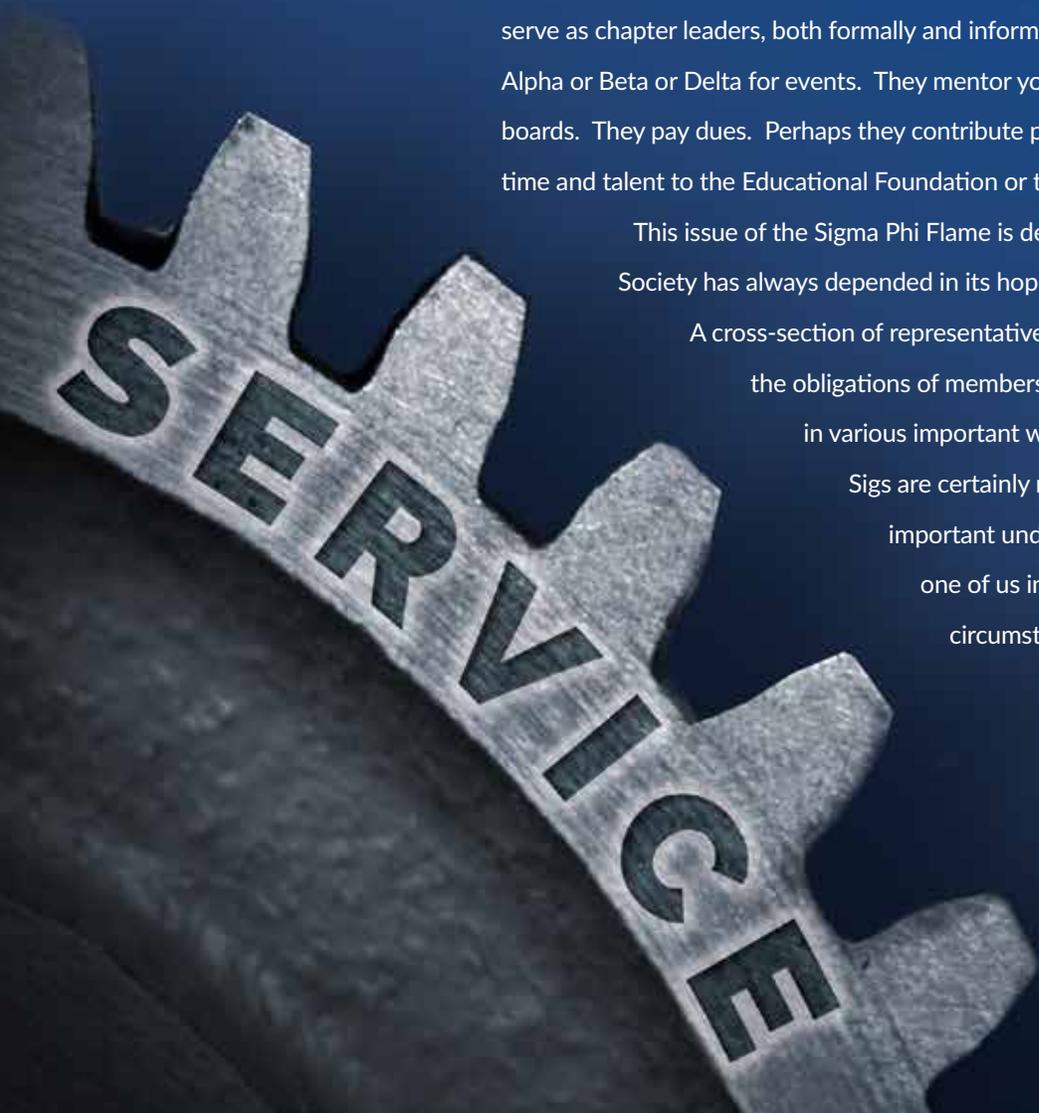
There is an element of Sig ritual in which you and I are made aware of the obligations of membership. One of these obligations involves an emphasis on service. The Society has emphasized service ever since the ritual was first written by Chester Averill, U'1827. We are instructed about what service means and then advised of our obligation to actively practice it. In the fervor of the initiation moment, it probably all makes good (if murky) sense to us.

Real life intrudes, of course. Perhaps sooner...or perhaps later...many decide that service to Sigma Phi is difficult or even unnecessary. Life imposes many competing obligations, after all. At some point, many Sigs - too many - will walk away from that membership concept altogether.

There are those who don't, however: those for whom service to Sigma Phi remains an important priority, season after season. You know those brothers. As undergrads, they serve as chapter leaders, both formally and informally. As alumni, they return to their Alpha or Beta or Delta for events. They mentor young actives. They serve on alumni boards. They pay dues. Perhaps they contribute personally at another level, contributing time and talent to the Educational Foundation or the Standing & Advisory Committee.

This issue of the Sigma Phi Flame is dedicated to service, upon which our Society has always depended in its hope for a vibrant, successful tomorrow.

A cross-section of representative Sig brothers who clearly remember the obligations of membership...and serve the Thrice Illustrious in various important ways.... is shared below. While these Sigs are certainly not unique, they are emblematic of an important understanding first articulated to each one of us in a dark, quiet room under formative circumstances.



Why I Continue to Stay ENGAGED IN SIGMA PHI

by Marshall Solem F'79 marshall.solem@zsassociates.com

When I am asked the question - and I frequently am - "Why are you still so involved in your fraternity?", the answer is easy. I simply tell people that I got a ton out of my undergraduate experience at Sigma Phi, and I continue to have fun working with fellow Sigs to ensure today's undergrads have a shot at the same experience I/we had.

Many of the skills I use in business today were first learned at Sigma Phi, starting with creating a budget and managing finances, but moving on to organizing events and running a physical plant. Perhaps most importantly, I learned a lot about motivating and working side by side with a diverse group of people towards a common goal. All these skills are as important today - maybe even more so - as they were almost 40 years ago when I roamed the halls of the Bradley House in Madison. Mindful of how much I benefited from these experiences, it's an easy leap to want to help ensure others have opportunities to learn similar skills.

But I want to get back to the point about having fun while serving Sigma Phi. In fact, I'd say fun is a key ingredient of most service activities (Sig & non Sig) that I've known. Through my work with the national over the years, I have made close friends from virtually every Sig chapter. As a result of these friendships, when I think of Sigma Phi, I usually think of it in national terms. It's kind of like learning a second language. You know you've really internalized and are fluent in it when you dream in the second language. Even since stepping

down from national leadership, my national Sig service experiences cause me to relate to Sigma Phi on a national basis first. Of course, the Wisconsin chapter commands a bigger share of mind now that others are leading the national and my closest friends continue to Wisconsin Sig contemporaries, but it's impossible for me to think of Sigma Phi only in Wisconsin terms.

In addition to the fun, there is a great sense of making a difference for others in my Sig service work. And isn't making a difference for others what life is really all about? If it was just "all about us", life would be pretty shallow. Who would want to live in such self-absorbed isolation? Helping others and seeing them grow gives me added meaning and purpose. As a Sig example, it's really rewarding to hear about the difference the Viele Scholarship makes for many of our young brothers. Recognizing this impact makes the long evening and weekend hours poring over their applications time well spent.

Today, there are so many demands on everyone's time that we have to pick and choose our service activities carefully. We typically choose areas that align with our passions and sense of greater purpose. For me, Sigma Phi is an easy choice. The difference it made in my life and the difference I know it continues to have in the lives of others makes it most worthy of continuing investment of my time.



Marshall Solem

“The difference it made in my life and the difference I know it continues to have in the lives of others makes it most worthy of continuing investment of my time.”



Service: DOING MY PART

by Dan Montgomery M'08 dancmont@gmail.com



Don Montgomery

Membership in Sigma Phi was a defining part of my undergraduate experience at the University of Michigan. 907 Lincoln was my home in more ways than one, and I tried to get as involved in the Society as I possibly could. I held a number of positions in the house. As Pledge Trainer, I welcomed a new class of brothers into the house; as Head of House, I was a conduit for communication between actives and alumni and got to do some steering for the future; and as Kitchen Manager, I was able to somehow always make everyone unhappy with the restaurant I picked to cater that week's pledge dinner. Each position had its perks and drawbacks. In each, I had some successes and some failures. Most importantly, each allowed this former active to involve himself with the Society in a different way.

I figured this would all end when I graduated, and that I would mainly stay involved with the chapter by occasionally paying my

alumni dues, maybe. However, I decided to attend the University of Michigan's Law School, and - about four minutes after learning that I was staying in Ann Arbor for another three years - Alumni Board President Andy Mansfield, M'06, somehow roped me into taking over as the Alumni Board Treasurer. (Andy's pretty persuasive; I don't remember actually ever agreeing to do it...)

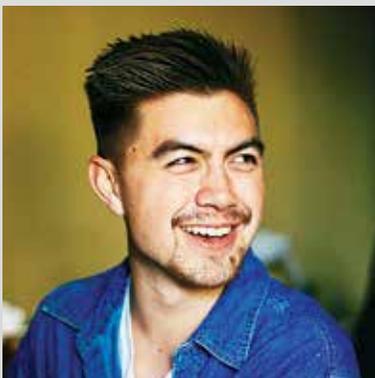
Now, my time on the Board is drawing to a close as I'm about to leave Michigan for the foreseeable future to practice law in Manhattan. As I do, I know that these last three years have rewarded me greatly. In my role as Alumni Treasurer, I've raised funds through alumni dues campaigns, helped plan for improvements to the physical plant to make sure that it stays standing, planned for emergencies by putting funds aside and keeping current on insurance bills, and supervised active finances and bookkeeping. And even in this relatively

short time, I've seen the active chapter change. There are new members, with new passions and new ideas about the role that Sigma Phi should play in their lives and in their communities.

But I am reassured that one very important thing hasn't changed. I can see that, despite the passing of the years and changes in culture, defining that Society role...and contributing to that role. ...is clearly as important to them as it is to me. I'm grateful that, as an alum, I've been able to do my small part to ensure that Sigma Phi will continue to be an influence in so many lives for years to come.

Service Can BE SIMPLE

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



George Syrop

We come into college vulnerable and impressionable. We yearn for nurturing and connection. We have ideas rooted in personal pain and suffering. Young adulthood is rife with existential crises. I've had brothers break down in tears before me. I've done the same. We're both better because of it.

Such moments of personal growth required vulnerability and a willingness to listen. It's my view that, for alumni to exemplify these attributes, may be the greatest service we can offer our active brothers. It represents support that legitimately matters to them. Listening gives us an awareness of the world in which our actives live, one that may hardly resemble our own. Vulnerability means treating our brothers' thoughts with respect, asking questions that challenge their ideas, having our own ideas challenged in return, and realizing that we're all growing together.

As alumni, I encourage all Sigs to find ways to genuinely engage with our younger siblings. Help them feel less alone during this tumultuous period of personal development. Demonstrate fearlessness through vulnerability. Strengthen our network of meaningful friendships through empathy. When we exchange wisdom between generations, we ensure that the future of our Society remains in good hands: hands we're familiar with and hands we can trust.

Service: SYMBOL OF GRATITUDE

by Troy Homesley T'11 holmesley@live.unc.edu



Troy Homesley

“I urge each of us to think deeply about what gifts we can bear, and to seek opportunities to bear these gifts as a symbol of gratitude for those whose shoulders our society is built upon.”

Time has passed, but my connection to the Alpha of North Carolina chapter of the Sigma Phi Society has yet to wane. In 2011, I became a brother of Sigma Phi when I joined a small group of newly-initiated brothers who would go on to build Sigma Phi into one of the most noted and successful fraternities at the flagship university of the State of North Carolina. I will never forget the excitement that filled our hearts as we set off on a challenging quest to build our chapter from scratch. Perhaps most poignantly, I remember the devotion that brothers like Steve Wright, S'93, and RJ Lackey, S'85, showed to our fledgling chapter from those earliest of days.

That devotion - a devotion to a young band of sometimes miscreants, other times outlaws, and most times scholars - impressed upon me the sort of devotion that being a brother of Sigma Phi commands and inspires. I must say, as an active, I was perpetually impressed by this devotion. Now, standing on the other side of the active-alumni dichotomy, I often think critically about whether my brothers and I are carrying out our end of the bargain. I live in Chapel Hill, a short drive from the Sig House at 703 N. Columbia Street. I grab lunches and dinners with the actives. I provide a listening ear and inquisitive mind when they face those rare challenges that can't be handled within the house. But I often wonder - what more can I do?

First, there is the question of whether I should do more. I think we all must answer that question affirmatively, and find ways to stand as mentors, leaders, and friends to our active brothers. The next logical question; what more to do, is not so easily answered. Each and every brother of Sigma Phi has something to give back, and perhaps the greatest strength of our Society is that our cohort embodies a kaleidoscope of gifts waiting to be given. Some of us can give our time, some of us can lend a useful skill such as financial analysis or handiwork around the house, some of us can provide connections for actives, some of us can give monetarily. I find myself asking what gift I can give. I know that, if I do my part, another alumni brother will fill in the gaps where my weaknesses lie.

What about you? What more can you do for this Society and for Sigma Phi's actives? I urge each of us to think deeply about the gifts we possess...and to seek opportunities to give of these gifts as symbols of gratitude for those whose shoulders our 189 year young Society is built upon.



Work Ethic: IMPORTANT SERVICE COMPONENT

by Dan Jacobsen M'15 jacobdan@umich.edu

What does work ethic mean to you?
Working at a desk until your job is done?
Being punctual and completing tasks assigned to you?

Where I grew up, personal work ethic carried more weight than the disappointment of your peers. Work ethic drove us to plant crops on time. Lack of work ethic meant those crops wouldn't be ready for harvest in the fall, and you'd have nothing to sell and nothing to make payments on your farm. Work ethic meant watching the heifer through her pregnancy lest you one day wake up to a lifeless calf frozen to the ground in your field. It meant going to bed each night, thinking about how to be a better person...and how to take care of the ones you love.

I grew up in the humble farming village of North Branch, Michigan. Going to school there and being a part of a community such as North Branch instills a sense of responsibility in everyone. We were taught to help your neighbor and be kind to strangers. I learned

it was important to go out of my way to provide for people I cared for. When I was introduced to Sigma Phi, I saw these same qualities and characteristics in abundance. They translate directly to what the Sigma Phi is about...and how she attempts to provide for the members of her family.

I recently graduated from the University of Michigan. Along the way, I served for a year as house manager for the Alpha of Michigan. I cared for the physical plant as if it was my own and cared for the people under its roof as beloved brothers of the Sigma Phi. At the Sigma Phi Place, I wanted to be a source of both motivation and friendship for my brothers. I wanted to help lead them to sustain the house they inherited and to create a better house for Sigs of the future.

Here at 907 Lincoln, there have been inevitable moments of discouragement. With Sigs hailing from different cities from around the country and even the world, I couldn't expect everyone to hold work ethic in such high regard. In coming to terms with this reality, I decided I would demonstrate by example what work ethic accomplishes. When we complete projects as a house these days, I can see in the faces of my brothers that there is a real sense of accomplishment. As much as my brothers may at first have disliked the work, it's clear

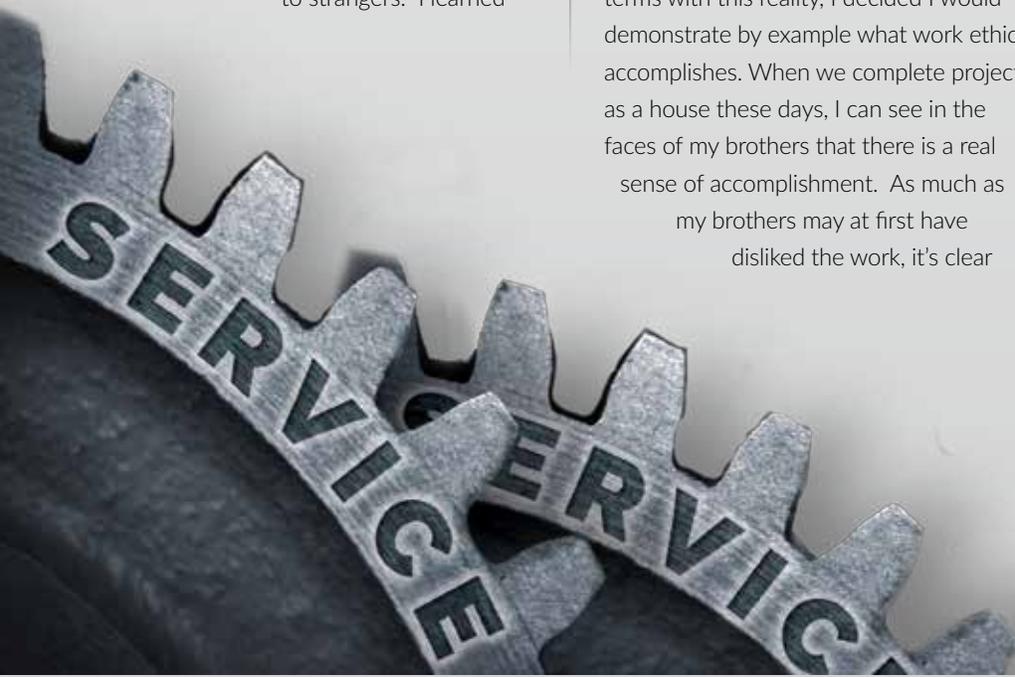


Dan Jacobsen

that they enjoy knowing that what they did directly impacted the house. In that process, it deepens our connection not only with the physical plant we call "home"...but also with the Sigma Phi.

Work ethic is something you learn from being around others who are motivated and driven. It's been my goal to be one of those people during my time as an active. It's been my pleasure to lead members of the Alpha of Michigan to have, maintain and enjoy a comfortable, functioning structure at the same time we create a better house for future Sig generations.

“Work ethic is something you learn from being around others who are motivated and driven.”



Service: UNEXPECTED ENRICHMENT

by R. J. Lackey S'85 rjlackey@woodsrogers.com

About 32 years ago, I ran into 163 Rugby Road in Charlottesville, VA. I didn't know it then, but my life would change forever in ways only initiated brothers of Sigma Phi can truly understand and appreciate. During my time as an active and for a long time thereafter, I did not have a lot of contact with other chapters. I visited Lehigh and California once or twice and took an interest in the Carolina chapter's birth in 2008.

Three years ago at a time in my life when I was struggling through serious personal difficulties, a similarly life-altering and Sig-centric decision was immediately ahead. I answered the phone one day only to find the Chair of our Society, Jim Cole, S'86, on the other end. He asked me if I would serve for a time as General Counsel to the S&A. To say that I was surprised is an understatement. To say that I was looking for a participation opportunity might have overstated things, too. Absent my regard for Jim and my love for Sigma Phi, I would surely have said 'no.' Little did I know that saying 'yes' would invite similar life-altering changes at the same time it served as a welcome bulwark against life's then-stormy seas.

As General Counsel, I serve at the pleasure of the Chairman, attend S&A meetings without a vote, participate in Executive Committee deliberations, and provide counsel to the Chair and each of the bodies. At times, it has been challenging to deal with the issues that we face. Some are outside my normal legal practice of corporate / employment corporate/transactional and employment

law; others) involve issues of law from states where I don't practice. In addition to legal advice, I have been asked to provide analysis and strategic thought, both of which I relish.

But what I do in this role is not my salient point. Nor is the fact that service to the S&A and the Society at large will take me away from my children, my work and other endeavors.

But here's the thing. I don't think of it as service. As I serve, I have had the profound pleasure of meeting Brothers from across our nation and developing deep friendships with this diverse group of fascinating, purposeful and fun gentlemen. In ways that I could not predict when I answered the call, rather than "serving", I have once again been served by Sigma Phi. Just as in 1984, my life has once again been very positively altered by the brothers I have come in contact with during my "service." It's very clear to me, in fact, that - through these new friendships in Sigma Phi - I have received far more than I have given. The opportunity to get to know and associate with brothers like Brendan McCurdy, H80, Moses Cesario, I89, Derek Fredrickson, V94, Nate House, H09, JB Britten V024?, Christy Lambden, T11, Jon Bergner, S03, Mike Imirie, M69, Dave Pauls, M65, Scott Heckel, F97, Mike Phippen, V98, Dan Neumann, F'71, Jack Romaine, L90, Len Kagan, U66, Rusty George, C82, and so many other men of substance has been fantastic. To have the opportunity to break bread and taste nectar with these fine, committed brothers has

made my life much richer. It has bolstered me during passage through rough waters. The Sig stories we share and memories we make enrich my life on a daily basis. (Ask me one day about the \$90 Stella and piece of bacon!)

My conclusion? Simply put, service to our Society and our Brotherhood as a whole...is actually service to one's own soul.

As General Counsel, I have one stern piece of advice for all of my Brothers. When the call to "serve" our Society comes, pick up the phone! If the call doesn't come, then travel to a Convention and/or 4th of March Banquet. You'll learn firsthand about the enriching spirit of service which permeates our Thrice Illustrious Sigma Phi, and you'll be very glad you did.



R. J. Lackey

4th MARCH FOURTH IN MANHATTAN

by Mike Imirie M'69
mimirie@aol.com

This year's March Fourth celebration was noteworthy for at least two different reasons. To begin with, as a delightful anomaly, we celebrated March Fourth in lockstep with the calendar: on the very fourth of March! In addition, our New York City Banquet took place at the very distinguished India House on Manhattan's Hanover Square. Guests appreciated that this early 1800s Renaissance palazzo structure and former home of New York's Hanover Bank was an elegant and excellent place to celebrate Sigma Phi's 189th birthday.

Eighty-two alumni, undergraduates and guests made their way to India House. There, in a high-ceilinged, 3rd floor banquet room, we enjoyed cocktails as we reconnected and/or made new Sig friends. Canapes were served by smartly-dressed, strolling wait staff members.

Our joviality temporarily quieted when Banquet Chair and Society Development Director Christy Lambden, T'11, called for attendees to be seated. Sigs sat! Conversations began anew as pan seared roast chicken and beef medallions were served.

The evening's order of events was measured, formal and designed to delight. On behalf of the host S&A Committee, Christy welcomed banquet-goers and recognized Sig leaders for their service. He also noted with respect participation that night by senior Sig Bill Poarch, S'54, and his lovely wife, Liz. Benediction was offered by Chairman Brendan McCurdy, H'80, songs were sung by the Alpha of Vermont, and the Elihu Root Distinguished Sigma Phi Award to Robert Harrison, C'73, by Society Recognition Chair Dan Neumann, F'71. Bob was introduced by Jay Walker, C'74, whose effervescent profile of the evening's honored guest got everyone's attention. Brother Harrison's keynote address (excerpted elsewhere in this Flame) was superb.

Alumni participation was particularly good - and particularly enthusiastic - from our Lehigh and Vermont chapters. It was excellent to be reminded of the great loyalty and many contributions for which those two chapters are known.

As the evening drew to a close, the Benedict Toast was offered by Rick Bingham, V'84. "To the Sigma Phi...when she ceases to lead, then let her die." All of us in attendance at India House that night were pleased to join Rick in celebrating the reality of our Society's longevity, leadership and remarkable

ability to mold 'the best of friends' over 189 long and propitious years.



Remarks Upon Receiving the ELIHU ROOT DISTINGUISHED SIGMA PHI AWARD

by Bob Harrison C'73

rsharrison2000@aol.com

I have to admit that I have had mixed feelings about accepting the Elihu Root Award, which I understand is in the general category of "lifetime achievement" awards. The reason for my ambivalence is not because I am ungrateful, but because I have had a self-image - ever since attending Cornell - of being a 22-year-old kid in perpetuity. I think of myself as forever an undergraduate at Sigma Phi and nowhere near old enough to receive a "lifetime achievement" award. Those kinds of honors are for members of my parents' generation, not for me.

I grew up in Oradell, New Jersey, a small town which virtually no one outside of Bergen County has ever heard of. If people have, it is typically for one of three reasons:

- They've driven past the sign for Exit Garden State Parkway.
- They remember the only famous person from Oradell, Wally Schirra, one of the original Mercury astronauts.
- Most frequently, people who THINK they've heard of Oradell...are just confusing it with a denture adhesive!

My town had a population under 8,000 and was a homogeneous community of white, middle class families. So when I went to Cornell as a freshman in 1972, I was exposed to people I had never interacted with before... geographically, racially, religiously, ethnically or politically. I grew up an only child, so I never had to deal with others in a living environment until college. And I never was exposed to people who were particularly different from me.

Freshman year was a big change, but living in Sigma Phi was huge. I spent my

sophomore and junior years in the house, and for the first time in my life, I had a family: brothers, not just parents. Eating three meals a day with people, sharing the same house, making decisions together, and - importantly - taking responsibility for who is admitted to the fraternity each year creates very special ties. No other period in my life compares to that, and I think that reality is shared by most of us here tonight and explains why Sigma Phi means so much to so many.

After my parents, Sigma Phi is most responsible for creating lasting values in me.

The first of these is a respect for diversity and inclusion. It was immediately apparent to me during freshman rush and also during discussions about potential pledges in later years that Sigma Phi aggressively sought out a well-rounded, diverse group of brothers. Unlike some other fraternities I rushed, Sigma Phi was not trying to create a house of people who resembled each other. It aggressively pursued different people to offer a more interesting environment. My pledge class of 13 included:

- A Nicaraguan with close ties to the Sandinistas;
- A Jewish Brazilian son of a diamond merchant who escaped the Nazis;
- A clean-cut Protestant Midwesterner getting through college on ROTC; and



Elihu Root Honoree Bob Harrison, C'73 is at center.

- Catholic son of a janitor who immigrated from Italy and was only able to attend Cornell because of a full financial aid package.

Sunday morning conversations over cheese omelets prepared by our amazing chef, Chief, before "re-racking" until noon were pretty interesting with that group. Some houses defined diversity as admitting not only members of the swim team, but also the diving team. That was not Sigma Phi.

The second value I attribute to Sigma Phi is respect for others. When I was a freshman exploring Cornell fraternities, I was particularly attracted to some of the best party houses on campus. My favorite was Phi Gamma Delta because of the Fiji Island party it hosted each year. Partygoers were treated to a powerful purple juice and wore costumes invariably including an exotic purple grease made from Crisco and grape juice. It was an amazing party with great music and great-looking sorority girls. It was more than

continued on next page...

a little like Animal House.

I will never forget what happened the night before freshmen had to decide which fraternity bid to accept. Sigma Phi's Head of House, Tom Borman, C'70, knocked on my dorm room door. Tom had one last comment for me to think about before I made my decision. He asked me to consider what it might be like to be a sophomore, junior, or senior taking my date to one of the big party houses versus taking my date to a Sigma Phi event. That was all Tom said. His comment made a huge impact on me. He was right about how Sigma Phi brothers treated each other and others. I had no trouble making the right decision the next morning.

The third value I'll mention here is Sigma Phi's intense commitment to engagement, involvement and leadership.

Although I don't remember any explicit pressure, brothers were encouraged to get involved as leaders on campus. They were expected to be role models. When he earned the Root Award a few years ago, Ken Dryden, C'66, one of Cornell's/the NHL's greatest hockey players, said this about Sigma Phi: "The more you were and the more you did, the more respect you got."

I felt that, too. I was very involved in campus politics as the Speaker of the University Senate and a student member of the Board of Trustees. I was also a newscaster and a disc jockey on the local radio station, WVBR. Such campus commitments made me feel guilty at times for missing a chapter meeting or a Wednesday dinner, but brothers gave me a pass because I was engaged in campus life. The value I absorbed from their behavior was that fighting the world's fight mattered... even when 'the world' was defined by the borders of Cornell's campus.

When I left Cornell and Sigma Phi in 1976, I knew I would be back. I had no

idea when or how, but those years were too important to leave behind forever.

My first re-engagement was service on the Epsilon's Board of Directors in the 1990's. It became clear to me during those years that "adult supervision" and extraordinary commitment from alumni like Jay Walker, C'84, Fred Bloom, C'55, Jules Sieburgh, C'69, Dan Mansoor, C'76, and Bill Chen, C'02 - all at my table tonight - is what has kept Sigma Phi so strong at Cornell.

Guidance of the actives during difficult times matters, probably more than anything else. I have seen the truth of this for the past 14 years as a member of Cornell's Board of Trustees and as Chairman of the Board for the past four.

Much as I tried for years to cling to the conviction that undergraduate life - like great popular music - peaked and froze with Springsteen, the Stones and the Eagles in the mid-1970s, neither conviction is true.

Cornell (and other universities) are different places today. The campus is much more diverse than when I was an undergraduate. The percentage of white Americans has declined from around 75% to less than 40%, minorities have more than tripled from 6% to over 20%, and women now represent a majority of undergraduates, versus 1/3 when I arrived.

Today, there is zero tolerance for hazing and little tolerance for insensitive or exclusionary pledging. The legal landscape is changing, as are consequences for what is deemed unacceptable behavior, particularly in the area of sexual consent.

I do not mean to be "preachy" in any way, but I have long believed that Sigma Phi can and should be the leader addressing the role of the fraternity in today's campus environment. Why?

- We have a 189-year tradition of commitment to the development of individuals: longer than any other fraternity.

- We have extraordinarily devoted alumni who care deeply about the institution and demonstrate an eagerness to remain involved. The people in this room are the best evidence.

I genuinely hope Sigma Phi becomes the role model for developing young men on a national scale.

Let me close by mentioning a very special and personal consequence of tonight's award.

A few weeks ago, I visited my parents in Florida. My mother is 89 and my father is 90. Their memories are not what they used to be. But when I mentioned that I would be receiving the Elihu Root Award from Sigma Phi tonight, my father's face lit up instantly.

He remembered his own adventures at Sigma Phi when I was an undergraduate. He talked about the reception for the new pledges after initiation, when our fathers were secretly present, watching the 13 of us parade through the house blindfolded. He remembered completely shocking me when I went up to the bar after the ceremony - not knowing my father was there - and literally bumped into him while ordering! He had so much fun that night that he came back the following year for the next initiation. And he loved the expression on my face senior year, when I walked into a darkened living room at Sigma Phi to a surprise party celebrating my having earned a Rhodes Scholarship. My brothers executed it extraordinarily well and neither I nor my parents have ever forgotten it.

I want to thank all of you for making Sigma Phi a very special place for me and thousands of others, for the lifelong values it instilled in me, and, of course, for the 2016 Elihu Root Award. I am deeply grateful.



My First Fourth
continued on page 4

graciously offered his elegant 5th floor custom hardware showroom as a venue for the S&A meeting.

It was my first time serving as an alumni chapter delegate, so I largely watched and listened. The experience was quite different from attending elections at a general convention, in an enlightening way. Each S&A delegate shared his thoughts on the issues at hand. Despite differences of opinion, the group's discussion remained brotherly. The meeting lasted for 3 hours and more. It was broken up by good humor, but never strayed too far from business.

Once all the agenda points were finished, Chairman McCurdy, H'80, continued his goal of introducing us to all his favorite old pubs. We had lunch in a quaint, out-of-the-way place to which I will certainly return, and then group members separated. Some had to leave, others needed to change, and I had the aforementioned basketball game to watch, but those staying in the city promised to reunite later.

We made good on that promise and found dual causes to celebrate: on one hand, there was a Carolina basketball victory over Duke. On the other, Virginia S&A Delegate Jonathan Bergner, S'03, had just asked his girlfriend's hand in marriage. (Briana had been excellent company at the previous evening's banquet: engaging; vivacious; and appreciative.) She said 'yes', so we had additional serendipity to celebrate. Bringing your girlfriend to meet a bunch of your fraternity brothers in a new city and then proposing - that is brotherhood taken to a new zenith!

Hopefully, the remarkable celebration of March Fourth - age after age - will continue to bring as much good fortune to the Thrice Illustrious.

Never Forget These Brothers

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

Hobart Beck Jr., F'60.....	January 27, 2016
William D. Hopkins, S'80.....	December 6, 2015
Rudolph H. Kempter Jr., V'41.....	May 12, 2015
Charles E. Lange, W'50.....	November 29, 2014
Frederick Linsell, M'38.....	October 19, 2014
Robert O'Brien, L'58,.....	December 4, 2013
Christopher J. A. Parker, M'48.....	December 22, 2015
Warren Reiss, G'73.....	May 5, 2016
Fritz T. Sandoz, S'56.....	July 19, 2015
Ben Schlossberg Jr., C'60.....	December 12, 2015
John B. Schnell, L'48.....	November 5, 2015
Richard "Rusty" Shropshire, S'85.....	October 2, 2015
Carl W. Sundstrom Jr., V'56.....	January 1, 2016
Thomas S. Taylor, F'50.....	
Christian R. Troy, S'67.....	August 23, 2015
Hamilton D. Webster, G'49.....	January 16, 2016



Déjà WU

by Marshall Solem F'79
marshall.solem@zsassociates.com

You've probably read in previous Flames stories about the annual February trek several Badger Sigs make to the Rockies to ski, drink a little beer, and rekindle old friendships. For the past two years the group has taken the trip experience to a new level, recreating the experience of living in the Sig house. Rather than staying in hotel rooms and meeting up on the slopes and for meals, the group has now turned to renting a large house that accommodates the entire group of 12-14 men.

You might think that putting a dozen and more 50-65 year olds under one roof would make for a scene fitting for a sequel to 'Grumpy Old Men'. And perhaps it does. But for the Sigs in the group, recreating the communal experience of living in the Sig house decades earlier has been thrilling. After trying this for a couple years, no one in the group

wants to go back to hotel rooms...not even the five guys who bunked together in the equivalent of one of the Sig sleeping porches. I guess if you could sleep through the snoring and other noises of five other guys on a sleeping porch in your 20's, you don't lose the tolerance as you age.

It's amazing to watch how, without any formal assignments, the cooking and cleaning and logistics planning just get done - and without any drama. The comradery around the pool table and sheephead table is palpable, the stories engaging, and the jokes run the gambit from lame to outrageous.

On the trip this past February, Jim Behrend, F'76, brought his 18 year old son, Jack, along to join the group. Jack fit right in, despite the 40 year age difference. As we sang songs around the dinner table Friday night, it was clear to Jack that the bond we Sigs share was special. What's really cool about the group dynamic is that, given the 15 year range of ages and initiation years, most of us in the group did not actually live together in the Sig house. Yet the

bond and friendship we share in Sigma Phi likely causes an outsider like Jack to think that we were peers in every way. How else could we be so compatible?

As we departed on Sunday, we told Jack that our sincere wish for him was that, as he heads off to UW Milwaukee in the fall, he meets a group of men who, 40 year later, he'll be compelled to reunite with similarly, and - when they do reunite - he has a similar experience. His reply was that he really hopes our wish comes true. He sees what his dad has in Sigma Phi, and he wants to connect closely with a group of friends, too. For me, rekindling the flame of those connections on these annual outings and combining it with lots of fresh air and exercise charges my batteries. It's why I keep going back each year. It's a great example of impact and role Sigma Phi continues to have in many of our lives decades after initiation.

Anyone want to join us in the Canadian Rockies (Banff and Lake Louise) for March 4th, 2017?



NEWS of Interest



Jon Bergner, S'03, reports that the lovely Brianna Woodside will at long last make "an honest man of him" in ceremonies to be held in Pavilion VII on the Lawn at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville on September 10.

jon.bergner@gmail.com

Marc Bloomgarten, G'87, provides this update from the creative world of video production: "In fact, I do have some fun news. I recently opened up another production company, called Driving Pants Productions. We specialize in automotive video productions (commercials, promos, etc.), and have recently delivered 2 fun spots for Audi, both of which introduce the new generation of Audi's R8 High performance car. Driving Pants is my 2nd company, as I still own and run Zoomari Films, circa-2002." For more info, visit this URL: <http://www.drivingpants.com>
marcbloomgarten@yahoo.com

Army veteran, serious Sig and keen observer of the human condition **Todd Campau, M'89**, is now a published author. His first book - Ridiculousity: A Deployment to Afghanistan - draws from multiple war zone deployments to both Afghanistan and Iraq to describe a life led on duty in the military, with all of its highs and lows. Todd explains that, for GIs, writing can be cathartic. "It's the medicine which allows me to capture, process and understand the events of my life." Learn more by visiting this website: www.soldiertodd.com Congratulations may be e-mailed to this newbie author here: toddndallas@hotmail.com

Peter Cowles, U'90, who works by day in NYC as marketing director for InStyle at Time, Inc, has an after-hours vocation of the most wonderful kind. He and his wife own and operate the Aspetuck ("river from a high place" in the Algonquin language) Brew Lab in Bridgeport, CT. After years of planning and over a year of working through permits and waiting on equipment delivery, Aspetuck Brew Lab officially opened in December 2015. The 7-barrel brewery features a 50-person taproom which is open from Thursday through Sunday. (The black IPA is not to be missed....) Pete and Tara are very busy!
cowles.peter@gmail.com

Bob Downing, L'59, advises of this preferred e-mail address: bobdowning1@verizon.net Brother Bob also notes keen interest in returning again to the Bethlehem campus for a football weekend Sig reunion.

Liver transplant survivor **David Farmer, H'89**, posted this remarkable news in May: "Right on, training schedule! After a break of 26 years from swim training, I put on my goggles again and jumped in the pool to train for the US Transplant Games this June in Cleveland (<http://www.transplantgamesofamerica.org>). It's time for me to celebrate the Deece Donor whose gift gave me a second chance at life. Coincidentally, this year's Transplant Games are also in the same pool where our high school district championship meet was held so many years ago, so this is also a bit of a homecoming. Swimming events are June 11th. This is also a special shout out to my swimming buddies Matt Kirby, H'90, Andrew Wagshul, U'89, Tony Tramaglio, U'89, and Chris Walsh, U'90. Follow the progress on twitter at @tx_rockstar." farmer_ostbahn@hotmail.com

In a nod to 2016's presidential politics, this 'blast from the (political) past' was shared by **Jack Harned, F'51**. "In 1952, Sig **Earl Warren, I '12**, was governor of California and running for the Republican presidential nomination in a wide-open pre-convention race. When he came to campaign in Madison, three Wisconsin Sigs went to meet him. Jack Harned, Jack McCrory and Rollie Smith, all F '51, remember that meeting fondly! Eisenhower won the nomination and the presidency, and Warren served as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court from 1953 to 1969. He is also remembered for leading the official investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy. His biography in Wikipedia notes that he "maintained lifelong ties" with the Sigma Phi Society." jrh647@aol.com

The silkscreen artwork of **Eric Holch, G'67**, was featured in the most recent issue of Yankee Magazine. Lauded as "Nantucket's best known printmaker", Eric's work with vibrant landscapes was described in great and glowing detail. While his art is most often and enjoyably found on conventional canvas, the popularity of his work has also migrated Eric's art to jigsaw puzzles, dinner plates and ties! Learn more at www.ericholch.com or contact the artist directly at eric.holch@verizon.net

Good news in two different areas was recently shared by **Myles Kellam, U'94**: "On April 9, Cynthia and I have welcomed into the world our second daughter, Skye Aubrey Kellam. In addition, I am now a realtor for Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Fox & Roach in Wayne, PA." myles.kellam@gmail.com

We have this international update from **Israel Maynard, V'94**: "ToniAnn (VSS'95), Ella (10), Teddy (9) and I will wrap-up our Beijing ex-pat experience on June 9th and head for home (South Burlington, VT). It has been a remarkable

3.5 years, both professionally and personally. July will mark 10 years with Burton (Snowboards & Accessories), and I have had the opportunity to travel all over mainland China, along with plenty of time in Japan and other parts of Asia -- and even got to go to New Zealand for "work"! With the next two winter Olympics in Korea and China, winter sports - especially snowboarding - are on the rise. We made numerous family trips around Asia and down under (Sydney), and took our last one (Myanmar), in late-March, which was spectacular. In January, while in Hong Kong, we caught-up with **Warren Ackerman, V'89**, and his family. All in all, a wonderful life experience. Looking forward to seeing some Vermont Sigs at our class' 20th Reunion this October.

israelmaynard@gmail.com

This update comes from 3rd year law student **Jacob Morse, T'11**: "In April, I was a member of Campbell University's mock trial team that earned top honors at the South Texas Challenge hosted by the South Texas College of Law in Houston. I was surprised to earn an outstanding advocate award for the preliminary rounds and best advocate in the championship round. This summer, I'll serve as an associate at two different Raleigh law firms where I'll focus on commercial and business litigation." morsejacobm@gmail.com

Long time New Yorker **Lucas Ortega, M'90**, reports two particular proud items to report. First, daughter Alexis Mae Ortega turned 3 in February and was accepted this spring to BeanSprouts Nursery school in Park Slope, Brooklyn. Second, Lucas remains a big New York Mets fan and - as of his note - had already taken in four Mets games this season...with tickets to 18 more in hand! Less colorfully, perhaps, Lucas also reports having started a new job in the legal department at Macquarie Capital. lucasortega@rocketmail.com

Alpha of Michigan Chaplain the **Rev. Lew Towler, M'47**, shares this news of musical prowess on one hand and an uncanny ability to mix it up enjoyably with much younger generations: "On the first Sunday in June, at the Kerrytown Concert House in Ann Arbor, I played on the piano the first movement of Beethoven's Sonata no. 15. I a piano student of the multi-talented Margaret Faulkner, and she presents her students in recital each May or June. There were nineteen children and young people that day...and me. I am her only adult student....and she gave me the privilege of playing last - batting cleanup - on that fine summer's day!" lewtowler@live.com



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2016 DUES NOTICE

It's the deep heart of the summer of 2016. While most Sig chapters are on summer break, many facets of our remarkable Society come very easily to our minds. **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 the ongoing need for...*personal support from you and me.*

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 the dues letter sent earlier by Society Chairman Brendan McCurdy, H'80, please invest a moment **now**.

Mail your dues check payable to Sigma Phi Society:

(suggested - \$75 before 2006; \$50 for those initiated later)



c/o Sigma Phi
P. O. Box 57417
Tucson, AZ, 85711-7417

Or, as always, feel free to make your dues payment online at www.sigmaphi.org

Esto!

"Among so few..."
SIGMA PHI SOCIETY · 1827-2016

*Your attention,
please!*

We want your feedback. As we unveil new Society programs and initiatives, it is important that we hear from brothers about what they would like the national organization to be doing. Please take a few moments to visit our website (www.sigmaphi.org) and fill out the survey featured on the homepage... or fill out and return the survey you'll find in this issue of the 'Flame', using the included envelope.