

Sigma Phi

# Flame

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## CALIFORNIA CONVENTION

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# To Be A Sig ...

by John Mason, S'55

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What did being a Sig mean to me in college? At the Alpha of Virginia most of us had three years to imbibe the Thrice Illustrious. In Charlottesville, lifelong friendships formed. Often the bonds meant brothers helping brothers, such as with schoolwork. I recall one who needed tutoring to get through UVa's required first-year math course. His high school had finessed math, leaving him unprepared for college algebra and analytic geometry. Today, sixty years on, he's retired from a successful career as a Wall Street bond trader.

Did I still feel like a Sig after college? In the Army, our precept of Friendship gave me a leg up in the barracks. Many there avoided interacting, preferring to suffer Army life in solitude. Stationed in Germany, I made friends with locals as well, and with French and German troops at nearby NATO bases. Back then, it didn't occur to me that, having been a Sig in school, I might still be one. Only later did I realize that my friends there, more than just casual pals, had been like brothers and sisters.

Six years after the Army, I went abroad with a U.S. insurance company that did business overseas. During twenty years in Colombia, Guatemala, Spain and elsewhere, I found that friendship in those countries differs from our culture's concept

of it. To Hispanics, friends are not just good acquaintances. They're the core of one's "patria chica," or little fatherland.

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*This inner circle of solidarity gives its compadres refuge – a conclave – amidst life's slings and arrows. Their confrontation of the world's troubles engenders a bond of loyalty, not unlike our Thrice Illustrious.*

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Through friends overseas I found myself admitted – initiated – into a patria chica or two. Even though I was an outsider - a "forastero" - with alien views, I could express them, hear their views, and agree to disagree. Other Americans, put off by me associating that much with locals, upbraided me for "going native." That raised a question. Had I been out there too long? On reflection, it seemed that being a Sig might have more to do with it.

A Hispanic proverb says what you do doesn't matter so much as whom you do it with. Out there I found that airing views with expatriates like myself was of little interest. On the other hand, exchanging views with locals made the sparks fly. It gave me a lifelong preference for talk in which I know we're going to

differ. From this, I've come to think of our precept of Truth as being like a Love of picante sauce.

After we returned stateside permanently, a close friend from Guatemala and his wife visited. We had them for dinner, also inviting a friend I had grown up with and his wife. Over coffee, he asked the Guatemalans how they put up with the violence and corruption down there. Couldn't something be done about it? My Guatemalan friend and I looked at each other, and said nothing.

Even though not a Guatemalan, I knew as well as my friend did that any word said in response would have been one too many. And had it not been for Three Precepts at the back of my mind, I might very well have said one.

What does being a Sig mean to me at age 87? The answers keep coming, one by one. By now, I doubt I'll ever know them all...



John Mason, S'55



# “Set It & Forget It”

Do you have a subscription to Netflix, Hulu, or HBO Max? How about Sirius XM, Match, Dropbox or perhaps the *New York Times*? Many of us elect to automatically pay for various digital services and subscriptions. Month after month, we hardly notice such transactions. They're easy. They're convenient. Out of sight; out of mind...



## How about employing a similar subscription strategy to make a meaningful impact on Sigma Phi?

The Society's online credit card processor is secure and very easy to use. By visiting our payment link, you can sign-up to have a monthly donation automatically charged to your card. Like your other subscription

choices, it's easy....yet 'set it & forget it' could make a substantial impact on Sigma Phi. Think of it. If just 200 brothers were to sign-up to give... say...\$18.27 (!) a month, over \$40,000 would be raised each year. That's a convenient and some might say painless way for you and others to help Sigma Phi remain "firm and inviolate."

Consider joining other Sig alumni who are stepping up with modest, simple subscription gifts that makes a

big difference. Use the QR code shown here or visit the alumni dues menu or donation button on the home page ([www.sigmaphi.org](http://www.sigmaphi.org)), then select your donation amount and check the box that says "*Make this a monthly recurring donation.*" You will be emailed a receipt each month and you'll always reserve the choice to cancel at any time.

No drama. No worrying about responding to the next dues notice. **Just Set it & Forget It.**



## SAVE THE DATE

The Society's flagship March 4th banquet will travel to Chicago in 2024. What better way to celebrate Sigma Phi's 197th year than to enjoy all the Windy City has to offer?

Watch your email or check the Society's website ([www.sigmaphi.org](http://www.sigmaphi.org)) for more information as the date approaches.

A SIG ODYSSEY...

# OF THE 'FISHY' SORT

by Jake Savage, S'77 [flaysavage80@gmail.com](mailto:flaysavage80@gmail.com)

During July, in four of the past five years, Brother David Dallas, S'79, and I have traveled for a week of fly fishing. We don't go local.

Instead, we travel to a small town on the Yucatan peninsula about half way between Cancun and Belize. That quaint Mexican town is known locally as Javier Rojo Gomez (Punta Allen, on the map), and it is at the southern tip of a 25 mile long barrier island chain, terminating in Ascension Bay. We trek to this remote biosphere reserve in quest of the holy grail of fly fishing: the "Grand Slam."

For earnest fishermen, the Slam is quite an achievement. It calls for catching within one day - with fly

rods and flies, mind you - a tarpon, a permit (fish), and a bonefish. It is a difficult feat that few achieve, and Ascension Bay is a premier spot for attempting it. Among the many rewards is a "highly encouraged" tradition of consuming a tequila-soaked, locally caught scorpion with a chaser of more tequila after the evening meal with fellow anglers.

Some people probably think we are nuts to pursue such mighty fish with just a hook and a few feathers, and that is probably true. However, sight fishing for these three target fish is very similar to hunting, which is why we are both passionate about this pursuit. Sight fishing means just that: seeing the fish, determining which direction it is headed and how deep it is, and estimating what direction the wind, tide, and boat are moving. Success calls for casting the fly where it needs to be so the fish will see it and be enticed to eat. And the "EAT" - seeing these monsters hit the fly with their huge mouths wide open - is the primary reason for our passion about salt water flats fly fishing.



Have you ever seen a tarpon? This picture of a 75 pounder that David caught on our first day this year will give you an idea. That fish is huge, strong and prehistoric. This is not your oversized trout or bass: no, sir! This is a genuine prehistoric monster that jumps like crazy when hooked. It will take a fly reel's line into the backing (the last, strongest section of your line) in about 5 seconds. This one took about 30 minutes to land. Post release, poor brother Dallas needed a rest!

Yes; that's right. We catch and release every fish we hook and bring to the boat. So, you might ask, what's the point? My answer is multifaceted.

For us, the point is going to beautiful and wild places to enjoy this endeavor. This small fishing village on Mexico's Caribbean coast of about 650 residents is a throwback to simpler days. The entire town is focused on flats fishing, lobstering and eco-tourism. Accordingly, everything revolves around the water. The statue in the town center depicts a permit and is an indication of the seriousness with which locals view fishing. Permit are different from tarpon in that they are smaller, moodier and persnickety about eating. They can be ridiculously discerning about what they eat; if there is the least bit wrong in your presentation, the fly, the drift, the landing, or the smell/taste, they just won't eat. Shoot, they might not eat if you get it all right!

Catching permit is more difficult than tarpon or bonefish and is the main reason people come to Ascension Bay. The crystal clear waters of the Bay make fly fishing a quest very different from other

types of fishing because you spot the fish and attempt to get the fly in a position for the fish to see it and be enticed to eat it. The guides have incredible eyesight and fishing knowledge. They go to extraordinary lengths to get the boat in the right position, taking into account the fish's swimming direction, the tide, and the wind. They are super professional and when fishing for permit will put the angler and the other guide in the water and move the boat back 50-100 feet so that the splash on the boat won't spook the fish. The entire process is rehearsed by the guides over and over. I am sure they get tired of our failures (casting in wind is HARD!); even when we anglers blow another opportunity, however, the guides remain enthusiastic and eager for the next chance...just like us!

Bonefish are the easiest Grand Slam fish to catch, but - pound for pound - they offer the most exhilarating first and second runs. We use 7-8 weight fly rods and reels for bonefish, 9 weight for permit and 10-12 weights for tarpon. A decent sized bonefish in 1 foot of water will take you all the way into your backing. Bonefish generally run in size from 1-2 pounds. We've seen them up to 7-10 pounds, which are giants!

Another satisfaction? We also get to be in and observe nature in its rarest form. What type of nature, you ask? See the photo below of a 'friend' who joined us while bone fishing close to an island. He was about 10 feet long and very curious - likely looking for an easy meal, but we were loath to provide...

There are many more fish stories and nature observations that I could relate - manatees, turtles, iguanas, baby crocs, incredible birds and

more. For me, they are all part of the beauty and allure of going to Ascension Bay to fly fish.

Lastly, I would be remiss not mentioning Pepe, our world class evening bartender, who makes a mean spicy margarita, putting a wonderful cap on any day!

For all these reasons and more, Dave and I will go back again next year. We've already reserved our spots and can't wait to once again be back on the waters of Ascension Bay.

*Jake Savage with larger-than-life permit icon*



*Brother Dallas with prize tarpon*



*Fisherman's friend?*



# Fraternal Musing

by Jim Cranston, U'67    capt.jimcranston@yahoo.com

In choosing a fraternity (brotherhood), worldly pre-pledgelings have many selection opportunities. At Union, I certainly did. For me, it wasn't the building facade, the gallons of beer or sound level of the weekend bands that turned my head. Instead, I found that the Alpha of New York in 1966 had unique people: strong, caring and thoughtful members like Len Kagan, U'66, Jerry Straus, U'67, George Miller, U'65, Larry Forrar, U'63, Bob Shages, U'69, Mike McFarland, U'67 (my roomy) and others. In real life, real people make a real difference in real time. These quality people greatly influenced my college and future life. My choice to be "swung" at the Alpha turned out to be one of the smartest decisions I've ever made, but I didn't realize that at the time.

The late '60s was an era of rebellion, civil rights, visceral anti-war emotions, getting high for some, gathering in protest for others ... and Viet Nam, into which I would later lead 5 successful missions with the Navy. It was a horribly divisive period for young and old. The turbulent era of Viet Nam seemed to jostle the landscape of going to college, studying, sports practice, making new friends, and transitioning to adulthood. Learning from, being accepted by, and sharing an ideal of brotherhood, as flawed as that sometimes can be, was the Sigma Phi experience which benefitted me...and has done so throughout my life.

I remember the late Len Kagan, U'66, in particular. Len stood out as an informed, calm and wise friend, who modeled civility, thoughtfulness and

mutual respect within the Sigma Phi Place. Len, and his best friend Jerry Straus, U'67, really helped the brotherhood remain focused, organized and close. He personally helped me navigate and excel in my own courses. Len was smart. More importantly, he took the time to listen and to help me. I've carried this wonderful memory for 57 years and - when I learned that Len had passed - I felt like a part of me was suddenly missing.

Sigma Phi was, and still can be, an incubator for good men to become great citizens, enhanced by the ever-presence of a professional, caring brotherhood.

When you meet another Sig, no matter the location, you're better than just friends; you've met a brother. While in the Navy, both overseas and stateside, I ran into Sigs, from other schools and chapters. It was if we had known each other for years...

I'll close with a message for both Len and Jerry: If you're listening, gentlemen, thank you for being you, and for being my brothers. I'll always miss you. To all other Sigs...please don't wait to (re)connect with your brothers. As the Sig song reminds us....*"Swift the happy hours are flying."*

*Like Len often said, "knowing that someone who values you enough to listen, share and be there for you" is what makes Sigma Phi heartfelt.*



## Does Sigma Phi have your proper email address?

Are you receiving email notices of Sig news (e.g., an electronic copy of this *Flame*) and/or Sig events? If not, please go to [www.sigmaphi.org](http://www.sigmaphi.org), click on the login button in the upper right corner and sign up to ensure you don't miss out on news, information and happenings around our Society.





Men at work!

# SERP BRICKLAYERS

by Liam Addy, S'22 | [Ima6dx@virginia.edu](mailto:Ima6dx@virginia.edu)

What began as a simple home improvement project soon turned into so much more at 163 Rugby Road. The Platinum Porch on the front of the Sigma Phi house in Charlottesville was added in 1915 when the house was owned by Delta Tau Delta. This past spring, the brothers and pledges figured the old porch could use a little remodel as it had become uneven over many years. The right/north side of the porch in particular had become extremely rutted because of soil erosion underneath.

Our work began with pulling up the bricks that had sunk down. We re-leveled those areas by filling them in with gravel and gravel dust and then replaced the bricks, one at

a time. We used original bricks as much as possible, but replaced with new where there was no choice. At the same time, we installed a new drainage system to prevent that problem from happening again.

We figured the whole project was only going to take a few weeks, but we grossly underestimated the time commitment! As many as 40 brothers at the Alpha of Virginia have spent hundreds of man hours since the spring working on improving our historic porch. As I write, it's late fall and we're finally near the finish line. While the task has proven arduous, every brother had a hand in improving the Sigma Phi Place at 163 Rugby Road. On one hand, we know we've

done important structural work. On the other, our entire group has a new-found respect for professional bricklayers!

Our alumni advisor, George Snyder, S'78, has been crucial in making progress on this restoration. He has spent many days ensuring that our porch project is done right. We look forward to a day in the near future - hopefully! - that we can show off the restored Platinum Porch to everyone who comes to visit our Charlottesville home.

# Service, Written Very Large

by Mike Imirie, M'69 [mimirie@aol.com](mailto:mimirie@aol.com)



One of the precepts Sigs learn more about during initiation is Sigma Phi's emphasis on service: looking outward beyond the walls of the Sigma Phi Place to assist others. Such service can take place anywhere: on campus; in a nearby neighborhood; or even across the globe. This past summer, I learned of an exercise in Sig service that was written particularly large.

It had to do with the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. Specifically, a Norwegian Crisis Response team by the name of Paracrew organizes the transport of food and sanitary donations across the border into Ukraine. Supported by volunteers without special training, its goal is simple: to be among the first to deliver critical aid where and when it is needed.

Head of House Peter Grinde-Hollevik, I'22, is Norwegian. He learned about Paracrew through a countryman who knew Paracrew's founder personally. Peter resonated to Paracrew's mission; at the same time, graphic coverage of the crisis in Ukraine each day caused him to become increasingly impatient being "just a bystander."

Peter inquired about serving with Paracrew and was encouraged to take part. But he knew that, if he could offer help beyond just what

he could provide with his hands, that would multiply the caring effect. He advised the California Sig alumni of his looming Paracrew service and asked those with freedom to donate to contribute. Paracrew makes it clear that all such donations go directly to the people of Ukraine, for volunteers are responsible for their own travel and meal expenses. The organization estimates that a 2-truck mission delivering food, clothing and medicines requires about \$800, and touches as many as 150 families. Peter was astonished by the generosity of the Alpha's alumni. When July arrived and Peter was on his way to the staging area in Poland, more than \$5000 had been raised!

Peter had been advised that he'd serve as a supply truck driver on a 3 man team, and such service would also include

transporting medical personnel. (As of this writing, Paracrew had sponsored more than 150 such supply missions into Ukraine.) On July 13, the team planned and packed the trucks with medicine as well as food for both humans and animals. The destination? Ukraine's Eastern Front. Their first stop was Kiev. Kherson, Odessa and Kramatorsk would follow.

In each case, the Paracrew team drove its truck along roadways that had become increasingly pockmarked due to Russian firing. Peter described a representative stretch of road as "an amalgamation of old military equipment, abandoned bunkers, glass, and shrapnel." "Luckily," he added, "no one is enforcing speed limits."

The war's immediacy was everywhere. On one of the first nights in Kharkiv, two Russian S300 missiles hit targets less





Peter Grinde-Hollevik, I'22 (l) with Dima



Paracrew volunteers at work

than 500 meters from where the Paracrew team slept. During a brief stop in a village called Antonivka, Peter counted over 20 impacts coming from just across the Dnipro River. Body armor was a constant companion for team members.

Peter's impressions of his time in country speak volumes: "While packing our car, the Ukrainian medical and military staff treated us kindly. We were fed an unidentifiable grain soup in a dining hall full of war-torn soldiers. One man was completely mummified by bandage but his buddy held his cigarette while he smoked.

While leaving the hospital, an American volunteer doctor showed me the work they've done over the past months. The ICU and surgery ward are completely refurbished and well organized. I watched an operation involving severe shrapnel injuries. I was told the two men made it.

The doc had to go back to the US

for his brother's funeral, but vowed to return in the coming weeks. I'm incredibly impressed by his unselfish devotion to the folks of Ukraine. I'm even more impressed by the unwavering positive attitude the Ukrainian people have. War consumes a society, and war is clearly the case here. From 'Support our Troops' campaigns at the local gas stations to endless amounts of vehicles heading towards the front, I have nothing but the best to say about the Ukrainian people."

Peter was incredibly impressed meeting a 21-year-old Ukrainian man named Dima. Earlier, Dima had been detained by the Russians and beaten. Released after some time, he resolved to continue the fight for his country. With help from other volunteers, he has created "Points of Invincibility", a unique humanitarian support that attempts to develop local strongholds supporting civilians who hope to stay in their homes inside combat areas.

Peter returned to the U.S. on July 21, after 10 days in the war zone. After being home for a time, Peter reflected on his experiences in Ukraine - satisfactions and horrors, alike - thusly: "All of this would have been impossible without the help of Sigma Phi." He was speaking primarily about the astonishing support California Sigs provided, of course.

There was more, however. As have so many brothers before him, Peter was also recognizing...and modeling in a very personal way... the Society's timeless call to service.

Should you want to further the remarkable humanitarian work that Paracrew is doing, visit this website: <https://paracrew.org/>

**(Postscript - Brother Grinde-Hollevik, I'22, will earn a degree in economics in the spring. Upon graduating, he will join Norwegian start-up Evoy, which is leading the electrification of pleasure boats.)**



# Convention '23: Undergraduate View

by Carter Norton, F'22 [carternorton2020@gmail.com](mailto:carternorton2020@gmail.com)

**Never in my life did I think I would get the opportunity in college to travel to the other end of the country during the peak of midterms to meet new people who I apparently had a connection with. I was worried that apart from being a member of Sigma Phi Society, I would have little in common with the other gentlemen present at Convention. It was not until I shook hands with a Sig from the Alpha of California when he placed his forefinger emphatically on my pulse and I did the same when I knew that I had a deeper connection with these gentlemen that many of my friends back at home.**

After arriving in the very early hours Friday morning, I ate breakfast with my fellow Wisconsin Sigs and made my way to the Faculty Club meeting room, looking forward to meeting my brothers from chapters across the country. It did not take long for me to realize how similar we all are: we were all men in college who wanted to better our experiences



Carter  
Norton, F'22

by joining something greater. The Society had become something we all cared about so much that we flew great distances to meet up and ensure the continuation of an organization which has prospered for nearly 200 years.

In the meeting, we were joined by two professors from nearby universities where we all discussed the growing polarization in America and how, as fraternity leaders, we can facilitate constructive conversations and improve the cohesiveness within each of our chapters. Each one of us explored the struggles and possible solutions to living in a polarized country, which only increases when attending our universities.

After the meetings, we were invited back to the Alpha of California chapter house where each of the current fraternity leaders were able to meet and share stories with alumni from other chapters across the country. It was truly remarkable how similar our experiences are within the Society, despite sometimes *decades* between our college enrollments! There were many instances where there were differences between how our chapters operated. Similarly, certain traditions are more upheld at some chapters and had fallen off in others. It was so educational to absorb these practice differences, and I am bringing all of them home with me, hoping to enhance the experiences of each member of the Alpha of Wisconsin.

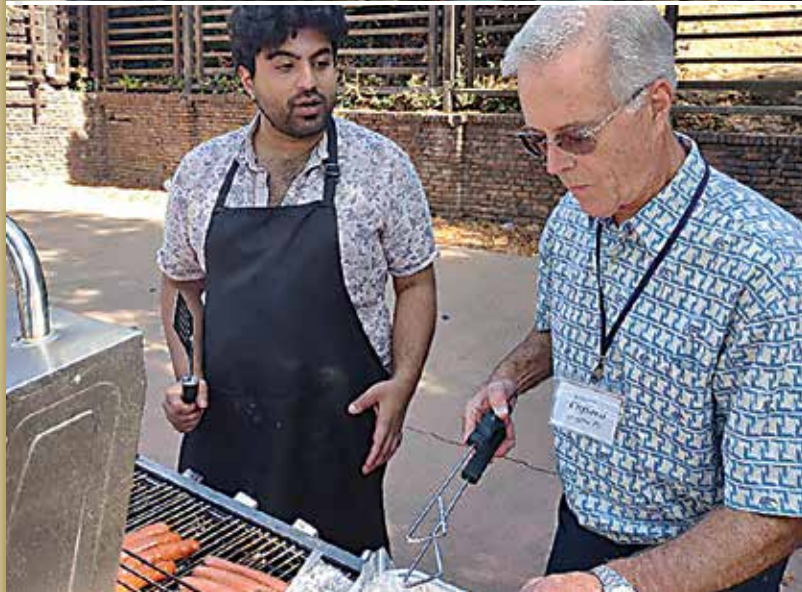
The next day featured the Annual Meeting of the Members, going over Society logistics, challenges and successes from a national viewpoint. Lunch at the house followed, and featured Berkeley's iconic Top Dog hotdog restaurant. That afternoon presented opportunities to travel the area and be tourists in a part of the country most of us have never been. A large group of us traveled to downtown San Francisco to see the Golden Gate Bridge and other attractions of such a cool city. The Convention Banquet followed where all brothers heard speeches from alumni of the Alpha of California, and Matt Forys, S'23 gave his winning speech from the Hicks Oratorical Contest. Dinner concluded and all brothers walked back to the Sigma Phi Place where we were entertained by 'Short Notice', the House Band. A few Sigs went out to explore the night life of UC Berkeley and we all retired to our rooms to leave early the next morning.

The weekend was one I will never forget, as the connections I made and the people I met were eye-opening and inspiring. The convention community expanded my vision of Sigma Phi, and I cannot wait to share with my chapter members all I learned in California. As I close, permit me to promise; this may be *first* Convention, but it will not be my *last*.





# Convention Collage





## Convention Symposium

This year's convention workshop was once again sponsored by the Sigma Phi Educational Foundation, and it broke timely, new ground. The lead session was entitled "The University in an Age of Polarization." It was designed to examine the narrowing nature of acceptable viewpoints in society, and how such attitude-hardening has impacted serious reflection about public life.

The session was led by two accomplished academics with diametrically opposed political views: Jon Shields (Claremont McKenna College) and Phil Zuckerman (Pitzer College). Jon is a staunch conservative. Phil is liberal to his core. Together, they use society's widely differing attitudes to spotlight the roles universities can and should be playing in higher education. The result? This session was lively, candid and highly interactive.

**Liam Addy, S'22**, had this reaction: "There were 2 thoughts that struck me during our discussion. The first is that it seems, listening to many other peoples' experiences at their universities, that free speech and open discussions are not commonplace. It seems as though there is a pattern of professors teaching their own viewpoints and dismissing or attacking any other views. This effect seems especially dangerous if the majority of students agrees with the professor. I was impressed by the abilities of Professors Shields and Zuckerman to have a cogent, civil conversation even though their views did not align. They

were able to explain what they believed and listen while others did the same. This gave me hope that maybe open dialogues can become the norm. Hopefully, people in universities can express their views and others will listen and actually consider the merits of their arguments. Learning to think, after all, is what universities are for.

**Jerry Barclay, I'71**, sat in on the workshop as an alumnus, and had these reactions: "The two professors brought in to facilitate a discussion on the topic of divisiveness and how to deal with it did a great job of framing the subject from the perspective of 'conservative' and 'progressive' philosophies, and pulling the undergraduate delegates into a thoughtful discussion. It was great to see the young men at the table flex their intellect and explore relevant topics. It revealed differences in opinion yet some very consistent Sig values

across chapters. It was clear the professors were impressed and pleased to learn about Sigma Phi."

As if to echo Jerry's observation, **Professor Shields** reflected as follows: "My thanks to Sigma Phi for being such a gracious host. I was impressed by your young men. They asked thoughtful, engaging questions and I learned a lot. For example, I don't think I'll ever forget the student from Korea who reported that he didn't feel really at home in this country until he joined Sigma Phi. I also appreciated the spectrum of views. Often the classes Phil and I teach lean sharply left. But this group clearly had some conservatives -- and that made for a more interesting discussion.

*(A special 'thank you' is due those brothers whose support of Sigma Phi Educational Foundation makes such symposiums possible. - Ed)*



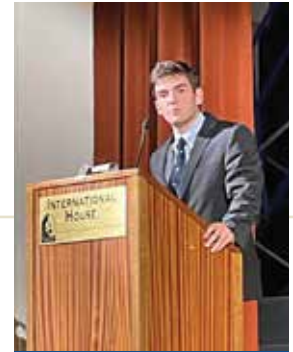
*Undergrads at work at Berkeley's Faculty Club*



# Winning Hicks Oration

by Matt Forys, S'23 uas5vh@virginia.edu

This year's Hicks Oratorical Contest featured five undergraduate speakers: Kanav Mehra, I'22; Joe Rettinger, V'22; Carter Norton, F'22; Matt Forys, S'23 and – in an Oratory 'first' – California pledge Elias Myers. Each young man shared his heart from the Faculty Club podium and each speech was formally evaluated by a panel of three alumni judges on the basis of content, originality and delivery. The results were excellent, both for our five speakers and the enthusiastic audience, as well!



Matt Forys, S'23

Is a fraternity really something to lose yourself in? We members commit hundreds of hours to the institution of Sigma Phi. A lofty commitment, and for what? What fruits do I harvest for my passion and commitment?

At the Alpha of Virginia, we live in a mansion passed down from generation to generation, presently entrusted to myself and my fellow actives. Each semester, we faithfully manage budgets in the thousands of dollars.

But looking past the merely physical, the Society presents us actives with something more. In fact, Sigma Phi places us squarely in the middle of the mutual improvements of our souls - with brothers that we love – and for our entire lives. In order for young men to be the best version of themselves, this is far more REAL, and NEEDED....than anything we do in class.

This is a truth that university leaders who were never introduced to the Little Fairy simply cannot understand. Classes are manufactured environments which don't reward the best of man's ability. In such classrooms, those who sit quietly, never disrupt, stare at computer screens the longest, and dutifully feedback information given by the teacher, in line with the rubric, get pats on the head. Bravery isn't taught. Nor are loyalty or passion. There lacks any hint of selflessness for the most important thing in a man's life: what our lives revolve around - the people around us.

When you think about your life, the

best memories you've ever had are always moments with your parents, your siblings, your closest friends, and your children. A Christmas morning, for example, or a Sunday dinner. I can recall many Christmas parties, but I don't specifically remember any presents. In 2011, I know I had presents, but I can't bring them to mind. Instead, I remember my dad was home from the Iraq War.

**My point? I would rather  
be in a run-of-the-mill Cracker  
Barrel off of highway I-95 with  
my Sigs, than standing alone  
looking up at the splendid  
Eiffel Tower in Paris!**

In Sigma Phi, what is our mission? What do the letters Sigma Phi mean? In this world where no values of men are taught, where masculinity is toxic, and we are told if we are non-confrontational we have become enlightened, how can you fight for those you love? How can I be the man the PEOPLE around me need to be? That is where the loneliness of this weird world comes from and why that house in Charlottesville is my lifeline. It has kept me from the deep loneliness of such a confusing time. Young men of the 21st century feel this loneliness that most people in the history of mankind would be unable to fathom. But that house teaches me how to be a

better man: how to take failure; handle arguments; be less selfish; and be more loyal. Even how to inspire myself and others. This fraternity is where each of us joined because there was real friendship made in rush, and because every single brother here did not want to go through a chapter of life alone.

As Sigma Phi, we aren't the World Wildlife Fund. Nor are we Doctors Without Borders. Instead, our mission is sacred friendship and making those friends great men in our world. In my view, it's one of the most important missions possible, at a time where so much of our own identity is under attack, and many men don't know where to go. That is not a battle I shall have to face without brothers. The brothers back home in Virginia have seen me at my highest, and at my lowest. They have saved me from the deep "ALONE" many others have to feel every day. I needed to travel to convention to meet the brothers here from our other chapters. Likewise, to meet some of the Sigs for whom college is past but who nonetheless continue to care so much about the same two Greek letters that have brought such joy to MY life.

A line from the Sig song 'Steam' proclaims "Progression is our motto, and I hope it's here to stay," but I offer a somewhat different sentiment, hoping earnestly that both our traditions and our conclaves are timeless until the ends of the earth.

## Convention Highlights: What They Said

**Liam Addy, S'22** "My highlight for the 2023 Convention? The Conclave that we held on Friday night. Throughout the weekend I had the opportunity to talk with fellow Sigs, actives and alumni, about their experiences in our Society. It seemed as though each chapter and each generation of Sigma Phi had its own traditions that were at least slightly different from everyone else's. The Conclave, however, felt like it united all generations and chapters. For those few, fantastic moments, brothers young and old, near and far, all gathered to share songs and rituals only we know... in a place only we know about. It reminded me of the bonds we share as a secret society and made me feel closer to the brotherhood as a whole. We may come from different backgrounds, regions, and generations, but we all share a place in Sigma Phi."  
*lma6dx@virginia.edu*

**Jerry Barclay, I'71** "I had a great time visiting with our actives, guests from other chapters, and S & A leadership. And some CA wandering birds showed up who had not been seen in some time. For instance, I had never met Mark O'Brien, I'64, who drove his vintage Porsche up from Long Beach. (*I had heard much about him from his peers, however!*) And Caryn and I haven't seen Jim Carrick I'76, and his wonderful wife, Mary Ann, in a couple of decades. And you may have noticed I really enjoyed the band on Saturday night!"  
*jerrybarclay@outlook.com*

**Bill Buhles, I'64** "The house, grounds and conclave were stunning. The active hosts were gracious, welcoming and well organized. The younger brothers know the songs (for some of which I struggled to recall the words!). The Hicks Oratory was a success. The actives really seem to care about Sigma Phi and obviously want to be part of it. Young men pattern their behavior after older men with whom they associate. So, it falls to us alumni to bring about change."  
*wbuhles@msn.com*

**Jim Carrick, I'76** "It was great to be back both Friday and Saturday nights. The Spirit of both evenings was great, and we were overjoyed to meet again with so many brothers Sig Sister Mary Ann and I had not seen in 20 and even 30 years! We all enjoyed the reunion aspect of this convention and the fact that everyone is good as can be expected with so many years under our belts. It was good to travel again in the name of Sigma Phi. In my college years I managed to see Union for the 150th in 1977 and Virginia as a Convention delegate in 1979, with visits to Hamilton, Lehigh and Virginia at other times."  
*jamesgcarrick@yahoo.com*

**Cliff Graffius, I'71** "No question about it. The roles of we two convention coordinators were stressful, tiring and nonstop. But I enjoyed so much meeting all the Sigs that came way out to the Left Coast. That communion was truly appreciated. It gave me an invigorated view of Sigma Phi and its great spirit and the value

it provides for its members of all ages. There was truly a love of the brotherhood shown by so many. Management of the convention was a massively rewarding experience. I really treasured was working with John Adams to make it all happen."  
*cegraffuis@comcast.net*

**Rich Lalosh, G'21** "My highlight? I'd say it was a toss-up between two things. In an information sense, I really felt that Friday's symposium was great- it allowed ideas, controversy and conversation to flow naturally; that does not happen enough in the public sphere, these days. Second, the banquet was exquisite. The gathering of brothers from all Society chapters truly highlighted the bond that we all share as Sigs. Even better, that sentiment was shared all weekend long in Berkeley!" *richjl3@hotmail.com*

**Rich Mauterer, H'79** "I departed from the convention with a strong feeling that was very positive and palpable. I felt good about myself, my situation and my relationships - like I had just received a healing of some kind. In my work as a therapist, one of the therapeutic modalities we use was originated by Carl Rogers, a founder of the humanistic school of psychology. What Rogers discovered is that when people are shown what he called unconditional positive regard, they heal. After leaving the 2023 Convention on Saturday night, the feeling that has stayed with me is one of the positivity that has arisen in myself by being in the unconditional positive regard (Friendship, Love and Truth) of my





brothers. I can only hope that I provided the same for everyone I met and reconnected with during this convention. It is now no wonder what our founding brothers knew about human relationships, more than 135 years before Carl Rogers!"

*rmauterer@comcast.net*

**Mark Patterson, I'74** "Never mix business with pleasure? Well, that is exactly what we did in Berkeley with resounding success. We took care of business at both the national and chapter levels, then switched to high-performance party mode (where there's no room for amateurs) as only Sigs can. Meeting new brothers and catching up with my contemporaries after several decades was fantastic. The Spirit of Sigma Phi – and its acolytes, mirth and hilarity - were on display at Convention '23." *map@dmarksmusic.com*

**Joel Shumaker, I'80** "What a weekend! The weather was great, there were many fascinating speeches and discussions, and Gregor Nelson, I'76, did a fabulous job leading songs at both conclave and dinner. What will stick with me most is that actives and alumni worked together to return the house to a level of cleanliness and appearance which I have not seen in many years. We should have conventions in California more often!" *joel.shumaker@comcast.net*

**Kevin Welch, U'22** "One thing that struck me as a convention highlight was the shared tradition and values exemplified by each chapter. Seeing how each chapter worked to incorporate and hold near Friendship, Love and Truth and the shared traditions of Sigma Phi was really cool. With each chapter outside of the Northeastern schools being so dispersed throughout the country – and cultural differences being real- it was refreshing to recognize our shared values and brotherhood on display by actives and alumni alike." *welchk2@union.edu*



*Short Notice, 2023: (l to r) Don Falk, I'75, Mark Patterson, I'74, Mike Giachino, I'72, Ross Blaufarb, I'80, Jon Blaufarb, I'77 & Tom Saxby, I'79.*

## ONE MORE SATURDAY NIGHT:

# 'Short Notice' Rocks Convention Dance!

*by Mike Giachino, I'72* [MGiachino@hannabrophy.com](mailto:MGiachino@hannabrophy.com)

The Sigma Phi National Convention Banquet at International House this past October delivered mirth and hilarity as well as well as great oratory. But that is by no means where our brotherly fun ended that night.

After a quick walk back to the halls of the Alpha, Brothers and their dates were greeted by the 1970's-to-1980's era house band Short Notice for an evening of great dance music.

Short Notice is an authentic Sig musical experience: a testament to Sig brotherhood and to the Society. (*Some insist it's a mystical stronghold of harmonious talent, as well!*) Formed at Sigma Phi in 1972 by guitarist and singers Barney Doyle (I'72) and Mike Giachino (I'72), its mission was - and continues to be - to rock the Halls and anywhere else where a good dose of bone-driving and hard-thumping rock 'n roll music was needed.

Mark Patterson (I'74) soon joined as the singer. Other brothers who have been in the lineup include Jon Blaufarb (I'76) guitar, vocals; Tom Saxby (I'79) bass, vocals; Don Falk (I'75); keyboards, vocals; Ross Blaufarb (I'80) drums, vocals; Tony "Art" Hartinger (I'81); as well as an added specialty talent duo known respectfully as "The Bitchin' Brothers": Tim Moran (I'76) and Jim Morrison (I'76). Indeed, this line-up gathered at 2307 Piedmont Avenue yet again on October 14, 2023, and once again proved that Short Notice has no problem with short notice-- and no rehearsals.

The name "Short Notice" has proven prescient as all of us have wandered and flown throughout our lives, but we are always excited and grateful to come together on "short notice": all music, all Sig! When you've played with friends like these for most of your life, you pick up right wherever you left off. The Rolling Stones may have been around for longer, but we've made music for 52 years (!) and we're still going strong. Not bad....

It's been our privilege to entertain decades of Sigs. We remain available to meet the call - don't fight the urge. Short Notice-Will Travel.

## Convention View: Delta Voice

by Zach Kizer, G'21    zachkizer13@gmail.com

***At the Delta of New York, I have made the best friends of my life. Although not of my own blood, I nonetheless call these men 'brothers.' I come from a broken family and I've been through homelessness and adversity, so I don't bestow such honor without merit.***

With this perception of brotherhood as my baseline, I traveled to the 2023 Sigma Phi national convention. I had the highest hopes of Friendship, Love and Truth, as any jolly Sig would. Through interactions with alumni who were on hand in Berkeley, I felt this same sense of brotherhood and camaraderie. I was dismayed, however, to sense a seeming divide among some California active chapter members.

We are at an interesting time in the 196th year of Sigma Phi. The flame is ever-present, however the traditional 'male only' membership model continues to face questions in California. When Michigan's charter was rescinded in 2022 for initiating women, many wondered: "What's the problem with initiating women?" That same question surfaced again, unofficially and quietly, at this year's convention.

With fraternities under more and more scrutiny as some of them lose sight of their original purposes - brotherhood and scholarship -- organizations like Sigma Phi begin to experience a divide. It's a divide between the more 'progressive' members.... and those devoted to our classical and altruistic values of building teenage boys into men who will be functional, values-

based members of society.

Being a part of the debates in the undergraduate workshop, I realized that the membership criteria commonality was not shared by all. But why? We are a society for men, by men, whose purpose is to further academic and personal achievement throughout life. Although I am a member of Hobart's Debate Team and enjoy great discourse, I can't help believing that we have in some ways lost our drive in empowering young, impressionable minds in the ways of brotherhood and love.

In troubled times, how can we collectively live up to and support Sigma Phi's traditional framework? I'll close with a fraternal challenge to all Sigs, active and alumni. Revisit your chapters. Reignite that vigorous flame that lives within all of us. Being Sigs is not just the duty of those living in our chapter houses. Instead, it is up to all of us. Of course, it is comparatively easy to go through the initiation process and reap the many benefits of being an undergraduate Sig. But our duty to the Society is more than that. *Much more.* It is about educating – even inspiring- the next generation of young Sigs to be committed to more than just themselves. We must work to broaden their vision and

teach them commitment to their brothers, their community and their country. We must keep the Society's traditions of excellence and leadership alive and aspirational among all Sigs....and, in this way, continue to fuel the flame of Thrice Illustrious Sigma Phi.



*Campanile at night: Mystic landmark for mystic Sig occasion*



# Building Online Community

by Dave Arnold, C'73    dave.arnold@cornellsigmaphi.org

Each of us has built friendships with our Sigma Phi brothers that last a lifetime. Easiest to maintain are those who are a few years older or younger from our time living at the Sigma Phi Place. Hundreds of other brothers are understandably out of reach, bonded by common values but not easy to learn about or communicate with. With advanced digital platforms and features, we now have an opportunity to connect more broadly and in new ways. This article will describe one promising, in-progress example.

The Epsilon chapter at Cornell is pioneering a platform to expand online reach to build a digital community for everyone: an interactive website to extend and improve communications across class years. While this initiative is still new, already every brother can interact directly with one another via integrated group chats, video meetings, seminars, volunteering to support the actives, fundraising campaigns, speakers programs, and polls, etc. Each person maintains his own profile and his degree of personal involvement. This changes the reach to expand what a good website can deliver in value. Content comes from

everyone, not top-down centralized like print, email, or traditional websites. In addition, it offers topical subgroups based on mutual interests, such as entrepreneurship and estate planning.

The platform is hosted by a market-leading alumni engagement company called Gravyty, with 3,000+ organizations using its customizable feature set. The platform is modular with sub-products for first steps such as for fundraising within a chapter or nationally. Its community features can connect with existing website content that remains relevant to reach out to the greater university audience, to families, and to supporting foundations.

The new domain is [www://cornellsigmaphi.org](http://www://cornellsigmaphi.org) with a linked subdomain coming for donations, [www://donate.cornellsigmaphi.org](http://www://donate.cornellsigmaphi.org). An initial fundraising program in November was initiated by Epsilon actives to support charities advocating for male cancers and mental health. The platform still is in its early launch phase, and progress will be reported over coming months. Meanwhile, the national Sigma Phi Society holds weekly group meetings supporting its Digital Strategies & Transition plans, in which the Cornell chapter is a proud participant.

## MISSING HEIRLOOM ICON

by Rick Travers, I'86    ick@travers.net

At a Berkeley convention in the late 1980's a beloved sign was taken from our conclave, likely by a too-mirthful convention-goer. The sign contains the word "LOVE" spelled out in gold letters, and the back of the sign explains the relationship between the word LOVE and the Greek letters Sigma and Phi. At the time, our Alpha queried other chapters in the Society, to no avail. I have attached a photo showing the sign (I circled it in red) in California's pre-1943 chapter house in Berkeley.

This old, old artifact played an important part in our initiation conclaves for decades. Its loss continues to sadden brothers here, especially older ones. I suspect it's sitting in another conclave somewhere and that chapter probably doesn't realize how important this icon is to our Alpha's process. It would have a huge and helpful impact on the California brothers if it found its way back to us.

Have you seen this one-of-a-kind piece of Sig archana? If so, please contact me so that you and I can collaborate to engineer its return to the proper place at 2307 Piedmont Avenue in Berkeley.



# SOCIETY 'MISSING'

by Mike Imirie, M'69 [mimirie@aol.com](mailto:mimirie@aol.com)

In the July issue of our magazine, we ran a partial roster of Sigs with whom the Society has fallen out of touch. We asked for updates from readers far and wide. Your response was both generous and restorative. Numerous updates were shared; some of our formerly missing men are missing no more. That's very good news, and we heartily thank those brothers who shared contact information.

Hoping that (communications) lightning will strike twice, we're sharing another group of missing men in this issue. If you have any updated contact information for any of these Sigs – mailing addresses, email addresses or phone numbers – please share them with your editor ([mimirie@aol.com](mailto:mimirie@aol.com)).

Healthy organizations need to do all they can to maintain contact with members. Thanks very, very much for adding to the communications health of the Thrice Illustrious. With your help, we'll try anew to “restore ties that bind” for each man on this missing list.

## CORNELL

William W. Bernhardt C'61  
John S. Waggoner C'66  
James Leonard Gilbert C'76  
David M. Pramer C'78  
James R. Crawford C'85  
Iver N. Larson C'88  
Peter C. Peterson C'91  
Joseph E. Cornell C'99  
John Jay C'05  
James Bowden Deck C'10

## WISCONSIN

William August  
Burckhardt III F'61  
Andrew Apple F'68  
Andrew G. Meldrum F'77  
Scott T. Million F'82  
Michael Mueller F'89  
Daniel Mantey F'94  
Simon Tsai F'99  
Jeremy Christopher  
Zimmerman F'05  
Terry David Schmidt F'10  
George B. Coogan F'13

## HOBART

John A. Karl G'54  
Stephen Brown G'62  
Einar Anderson G'73  
Christopher L. Dodge G'78  
Jonathan R. Lake G'83  
Daniel F. McCooey G'87  
Joseph Peter Ruggie G'90  
Jamal Malloy G'95  
Alisdair C.K. Forsyth G'08  
Phillip Robert White  
Jr. G'10

## HAMILTON

Douglas Alexander II H'55  
Michael C. Schwalm H'63  
Peter T. Manning H'70  
William E. McCann H'75  
Richard S. Hawkes H'82  
Phillip Boag H'86  
Howard E. Bender H'93  
Drew Jacob Thomases H'05  
Miles Parkhurst Knight H'11  
Jared Mandelbaum H'15

## CALIFORNIA

James E. Jackson I'56  
Lawrence Ball I'67  
Kelly Wright I'73  
Austin Forward I'78  
Thomas Talamantes I'86  
Peter Montgomery I'91  
Jesse Schwartzberg I'95  
Joel Burgos I'02  
Dustin David Rhoades I'09  
Nick Alexander  
Heinecke I'13

## LEHIGH

William G. Cummings  
Jr. L'56  
Peter F. Lafontaine L'59  
James A. King II L'63  
Michael R. Shraga L'65  
David C. Woods L'73  
Charles J. Kentler L'77  
J. Michael Chaykowsky L'83  
J. Dobson Schofield IV L'87  
David L. Glinka L'90  
Evan Ross Baken L'95

## MICHIGAN

Michael Y. Townsend M'58  
William Allan M'66  
James Smith M'69  
Patrick D. McNeely M'74  
Charles T. Jones M'84  
Brian E. Hirsch M'88  
Jamie C. Spence M'91  
David Bronson M'96  
Kevin Rushing M'01  
John Collins Farris III M'07

## VIRGINIA

Charles Sanford S'53  
Bruce S. Beresford S'58  
William F. Kalinowski S'65  
Louis W. Janowczyk S'70  
John S. Rader Jr. S'80  
Christopher O. Blum S'88  
James Blair Smethurst S'93  
Benjamin N. Dooley S'97  
Joshua Scott Willey S'05  
Yiorgos T Georgeson S'12

## NORTH CAROLINA

Imran Froogh T'11  
Tal Binyamin Havivi T'11  
David Spencer Hill T'11

Rahul Ramesh Lakhwani T'11  
Carson Cy Cutright T'16  
Hunter Lowell Davis T'18  
Wesley James Yount  
Price T'18  
Aaron Kendall T'19  
Michael Marand T'19  
Ian Sutton T'19

## UNION

Robert Miner  
Gillespie Jr. U'61  
Steven Carter U'77  
Matthew Arnold U'86  
Michael Edward Bullen U'94  
Jeffrey Guptill U'96  
Michael Nigro U'98  
Bradford Nathaniel  
Coyman U'01  
Rian Christopher Cahill U'05  
Patrick Jonathan  
O'Hern U'08  
Domenic Hooven U'14

## VERMONT

Edward Keith Howard V'53  
John Mandeville V'62  
William Perry V'66  
Jonathan Silverman V'70  
Donald E. Saul Jr. V'76  
Gary J. Snyder V'80  
Robert Maloney V'85  
Volker Spichal V'88  
Jonathan Reed Lipsky V'91  
Thomas Foley V'98  
Terrence Murphy  
Pomerleau V'06  
Walker Pickering Cotton V'10

## WILLIAMS

Albert R. Adkins W'47  
Robert Holmes Jones W'47  
Thomas E. Stephens W'51  
Henry J. Eder W'53  
Bruce E. Johnson W'56  
Rex Baxter W'58  
John Edward Franklin  
Jr. W'58  
Richard Newham W'58  
Albert E. Nugent Jr. W'58  
Richard J. Gillingham W'59  
Michael W. Norton W'59  
Donald H. Pelletier W'59  
Robert E. McNulty W'62



**Silas Anthony, G'60**, writes:

"Hobart's hockey team won its first NCAA Division III national championship in 2023. I'm proud to report that that team was started by three Sigma Phi brothers back in 1962, when our club joined with Syracuse, Rochester, Ithaca, RIT and Buffalo to form the Thruway Hockey League. We played all our games away as we had no rink! **Jim Anderton G '62**, **Joe Mechem G'62** and myself all took part, and the win by this year's hockey squad took me back all over again! Jim is #7, Joe is right behind (# 6) and I am #10!" [silasanthonyjr@gmail.com](mailto:silasanthonyjr@gmail.com)



*Silas Anthony, G'60 - Hobart's hockey team*

We have news from **Nick Besobrasow, G'78** "A group of Brothers from the Delta got together in the Tetons of Idaho and Wyoming to spend a long weekend in early October. The highlight was a terrific two day overnight fly fishing trip on the south fork of the Snake River. Attending in order from left to right on the attached picture is **Bill Heffern, G'77**, **Jeff Benoliel, G'77**, **Tom Conrad, G'77**, **Nick Besobrasow, John Brown, G'78**, **Peter Sahlman, G'78** and **Keith Spalding, G'78.**" [alta1boy@gmail.com](mailto:alta1boy@gmail.com)



*Nick Besobrasow, G'78 and Brothers*

**Mark Bloomgarden, G'87**

"Interesting news on my end: I have been again nominated for an EMMY award. This one is ad the Director of Photography for "The Problem with Jon Stewart" on Apple TV. I think this is my 17th EMMY nomination, including 2 previous EMMY wins. The awards will be announced in January at an awards show in LA. (Due to the writers' strike, it was postponed from its customary Sept. date). [marcbloomgarden@yahoo.com](mailto:marcbloomgarden@yahoo.com)



*'70s Lehigh Sigs with surprising indoor transportation*

**Doug Collura, L'75**, shared this July news: "In the latest issue of the *Sigma Phi Flame*, **Burton Sutcliffe Raymond III, L'73**, is listed among the "missing." As with many of us who partied hard during the seventies, part of him will *always* be missing, but - to friends who know him as Cliffe Raymond - he's present enough. I was the best man at his wedding over 40 years ago, and I saw him and his charming, talented wife, Betsy, who was also his girlfriend at Lehigh, a few months ago here in Manhattan. They sometimes hang out here as they indulge their habitual global gallivanting! He was included in recent emails circulated among Lehigh Sigs. I've attached a photo from one

of those emails, and have Dennis Slutsky to thank for same. Cliffe is the only Sig looking away from the camera, an action which best captures his inability to play well with others! [dcoll@nyc.rr.com](mailto:dcoll@nyc.rr.com)

We have this 'quill from the eagle' from **Paul Decker, M'85**: "I moved to Chicago after college and married Gretchen, MSS'86. We live on the north side of the city where we raised our son

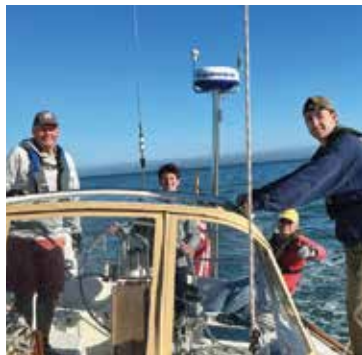
Ted (27) and daughter Annie (24). I am involved with several industrial technology companies, and in 2019 helped **Lyndon Lattie, M'86**, start SmartCert, a supply chain software company. **Tom Danilek, M'82**, and I enjoy sailing on Lake Michigan together in the summer." [pfdecker@comcast.net](mailto:pfdecker@comcast.net)

**Mark Etheridge, M'69**, shared this update: "I began playing pickle ball in May 2017, and now will play in all seasons 4 or 5 times each week. During the winter, I stay in Michigan because I bowl and am an elder at my church home. During the summer I play golf, slow-pitch softball, and (of course!) pickle ball. Judy and I celebrated 34 years of marriage in November. I recently had surgery for cataracts in my eyes. Quite by surprise, the Grand Rapids surgeon recommended to me was **David Verdier, M'68!** We still remembered the 'secret handshake' and talked about



the fun times we had living at the Alpha of Michigan. Oh. And I can see much better now, too! [mjetheridge6@gmail.com](mailto:mjetheridge6@gmail.com)

**Dave Hamm, M'65** Dave Hamm, M'65 has been happily retired from his rheumatology practice for 10 years. He continues to reside in East Grand Rapids MI with his wife, Beth Nicholson Hamm, whom he met at the Sigma Phi Place in 1966 while building a homecoming float with her sorority. Two of their 3 grown sons are U of M graduates, and one of whom - David D. Hamm, Jr. M'94 - is also a Sig. They have been going to Camp Michigan for 41 straight years and have had season tickets for Michigan football for longer than that. The Hamm duo is in touch with fellow Michigan Sigs **Stan McKay, M'64** and **Spence Maidlow, M'66**. [hamm2dave@gmail.com](mailto:hamm2dave@gmail.com)



Vermont sailors  
@ San Francisco Bay

**Jim Hansen, V'80**, shared news of this post-convention sail on the San Francisco Bay with **Randy Gridley, V'75**, **Kurt Haigis, V'73**, **D.J. Della-Badia, V'22** & **Joe Rettinger, V'22**: "Sailing was fantastic. Mother Nature put on a show with fog coming and going over the entire San Francisco Bay all day. It was sort of like being in a kaleidoscope! Truly magical day for all of us, especially our two actives. A convention they will never forget!" [jimhansenww@gmail.com](mailto:jimhansenww@gmail.com)

**Don Hunt, V'73** "As I find myself finishing my 4th year in retirement from income tax and investment work, I can only say it all goes by too fast. I still get in some annual games of golf with dear Sig Brothers **Kurt Haigis, V'73**, and **Paul Low, V'77**, but I miss our annual treks to Alabama. I'm now tending to 3 grandsons, 2 in VA (ages 9 & 5) and a new one (age 2 months) here in VT. With golf and home chores always ample, I have no idea how I ever was able to have a career. BSL to all my Vermont brothers whom I see too seldom." [donaldphunt@gmail.com](mailto:donaldphunt@gmail.com)

We have news from **Nick Hurd, G'61**: "My physician advises that, for an 80 year old, I have a continuing heartbeat and a decent prognosis! Of late I've been working hard to help raise money for the Den of the Western Lion whose chapter house had cosmetically (and partially structurally) fallen into disrepair. I owe much of my success to the life lessons I learned as a brother of Sigma Phi at the Delta and I'm happy to be working with some alums and students to right the ship. It's a pleasure to collaborate with **Jim Anderton, G'62**, and **Peter Sahlman, G'78**, on such Sigly work." [nickhurd42@gmail.com](mailto:nickhurd42@gmail.com)

**Reggie Jackson, S'96** On October 14, 2023, Brother David C. Lipscomb, S'95, hosted a jolly band of brothers at his Virginia Beach vacation home. Fresh Eastern Shore clams were shucked, while the sweet nectar known enthusiastically to Sigma Phi flowed into the night. [reggiejackson@gmail.com](mailto:reggiejackson@gmail.com)



Reggie Jackson, S'96 and  
jolly band of brothers

**Tom Jarvi, M'05** - Brother Jarvi continues his work in clinical pharmacy, with a concentration in injectable chemotherapies for UM outpatient infusion. "I am grateful that my wife, Becky, and children, Julianna (10) and James (6), and I are in reasonably good states of physical and mental health. We had the great opportunity to visit some national parks out west this past August. My favorite? Experiencing the famous redwood/sequoia trees of California. I was awestruck standing in their majestic presence, knowing some have survived for thousands of years. I left with a better sense of my place in this vast, beautiful planet and a duty to heed the lessons of the past to help mold an ever uncertain future." [twjarvi@gmail.com](mailto:twjarvi@gmail.com)



Michael Klement, M'78

October was a red-letter month for **Michael Klement, M78**, and his custom residential design firm, Architectural Resource (AR) LLC. AR issued the blueprints for what is seen as the first PHIUS CORE 2021 design certified Passive House and Fortified Gold Certified home in Chelsea, MI. Why the fuss? A Passive House is a home that uses 80-90% less energy than a conventional home. A Fortified Gold home is one that is designed to withstand extreme severe weather events. Michael is proud that AR continues to design the homes of the future, today. (It's noteworthy that Michael's very discovery of architecture was catalyzed through his time at the Alpha of Michigan in Ann Arbor. - Ed) [michaelklement@hotmail.com](mailto:michaelklement@hotmail.com)





**Jason Klotch, H'94** "On its exterior, the banality of life chugs along with work providing uninspired milestones for career changes, promotions, new projects etc. From a family perspective, I continue to not have kids; at this point, it would require a Walmart abduction before my wife would concede! In the shadow of the rock, odd pursuits, rekindled friendships and chance encounters keep things interesting along the way. Looking for a new place to live as 5 years in any spot (Ft. Lauderdale, in this case) makes me restless for change." [jdtklotch@gmail.com](mailto:jdtklotch@gmail.com)

**Hugh Leoni, G'99**, writes: "**Ross Montgomery, G'99** has been our host for the past 2 years at the Coors Light Pond Hockey Classic in Lake Champlain. Ross lives in Charlotte, VT with his lovely wife Annie and his 7 kids! Other attendees include myself, **Chris Connolly G'99**, **Prof Luke Stone G'99**, and **Bradshaw Karl G'00**. I grew up playing hockey and still play on the local beer league team, so I'm excited as we prepare to take home our 3rd straight championship this February!" [hughleoni@gmail.com](mailto:hughleoni@gmail.com)

**John Machulski, L'84**, provides this caption & update: "A much deserved break at the pub after a day of apartment hunting in London. After retiring in May, it was clear I had gas left in the tank. By chance, I was contacted by OriBiotech, a small start-up company in the UK developing a device for personalized medicine. The offer was great and - starting in December - we'll be overseas for the next 1.5 years. We're 'chuffed to bits' about the adventure ahead!" [Jm170896@yahoo.com](mailto:Jm170896@yahoo.com)



*John Machulski, L'84*

"On the work front," advises **Mark Mijangos, H'93**, "I continue to work as a self-employed independent and commissioned watercolor and oil painter. I returned to academia in pursuit of MST at Rochester Institute of Technology to become pre-certified as K-12 art educator. The last 3 years have seen many changes. Divorce, but now in a 5-year relationship with a wonderful significant other. No children but will soon be the ward of *many* in my future classrooms! Looking to become a part of an after school squash non-profit start up in Rochester which will aid underprivileged youth in their pursuit of diplomas, combining squash instruction and educational tutoring." [sharktoes@hotmail.com](mailto:sharktoes@hotmail.com)

We have this update from **Doug Mockett, G'63** "Passionate about racing vintage and historic cars and have done so worldwide. Highlights include winning my Formula One class at Grand Prix de Monaco Historique twice (maybe 2024 will be # 3?), overall win at Carrera Panamericana (a 2500 mile, 7 day rally from bottom to top of Mexico), and class winner twice and record holder at Pikes Peak Hill Climb. Equally passionate about flying. Now on my third jet, a single pilot CJ3. It has taken us to Iquitos (Peru) at the headwaters of the Amazon, out to Galapagos, to Alaska, to Europe several times, annually to our winter home in St. Croix, etc. Incredibly challenging; incredibly rewarding. Looking back, it is amazing how many friendships have endured from Hobart days for more than half a century ... a very positive sign! All the best to my brothers." [doug@mockett.com](mailto:doug@mockett.com)

**Taso Mouteros, H'88** This past year, I joined a company founded by another Hamiltonian (mortal) called Shareapy (<https://www.shareapy.com/>) as COO. Shareapy addresses the problem (epidemic?) of disconnectedness by fostering meaningful relationships via facilitator-led virtual gatherings. We've been building private communities - military and athletes are our go-to-market - but I thought about having a virtual gathering of Beta-Sigs. It would be great to connect and re-connect with each other in a much more meaningful way than what Social Media provides. I miss our claves! Would love to enjoy some virtual get-togethers. Here is the link to join:



*T.R. Pearson, M'97, with his children, Royce and Samantha*

This update comes from **T.R. Pearson, M'97**: "This year, my children, Royce (8) & Samantha (5), attended their very first Michigan football game at the legendary Big House. As we joined the crowd of 100K+ enthusiastic students and fans and sang 'Hail to the Victors', I couldn't help feeling my kids were making cherished memories for themselves, while I was reliving many of my own. I describe this experience as one of fatherhood's the peak moments. Having lived in New York City for the past 15 years and raising kids here, it's important for me to maintain a connection to my home state and give my kids special experiences like the ones I had on campus. That way, they'll truly understand why 'it's great to be a Michigan Wolverine'. Go Blue!" [theodoreroyce@gmail.com](mailto:theodoreroyce@gmail.com)

**Bob Shaw, C'69**, is being inducted into the USL National Lacrosse Hall of Fame in Baltimore on January 6th, 2024. [bobshaw23@gmail.com](mailto:bobshaw23@gmail.com)

(continued from page 21)

"At the end of September", writes **Mark Singer, H'78**, "I went to my nephew's wedding in London and doubled down on this pleasure by reconnecting with a Virginia Sig who was my student in Istanbul circa 1992. **Emre Peker, S'99**, formerly a journalist with Bloomberg and the WSJ, now the director for Europe at the Eurasia Group think tank, graciously invited me to his home for dinner. An extraordinary and extensive BSL chinwag ensued." [marksingerir@gmail.com](mailto:marksingerir@gmail.com)



**Mark Singer (L) and Emre Peker & kids**

In August, **Steve Slack, V'62**, posted this update: "I recently completed my term as president of Talbot Hospice Foundation in Easton, MD. Hospice is a terrific non-profit organization, providing care to patients and families as they encounter life-limiting illnesses. My passion for hospice came after my first wife died of cancer under hospice care at age 40. An amazing organization! I continue actively volunteering in several areas, including breakfast cook in Hospice House once a week." [lionchaser@mac.com](mailto:lionchaser@mac.com)

*(Editor's Note: Talbot's services are paid for under Medicare and other insurance programs. No one at Talbot Hospice is turned away due to ability to pay.)*

**Timothy Starr, G'05**: "After 15 years on the island of Manhattan, I traded my Gucci loafers for cowboy boots and moved to Dallas! Earlier this year I was appointed Head of Central Region Distribution



**Timothy Starr, G'05, and wife Hanna**

and Head of the Dallas Office for the Global Markets division of UBS Investment Bank. I am now responsible for managing all bank products being sold into the region including equities and credit. We relocated over the summer and I now reside in Highland Park with my wife, Hanna, and our faithful German shorthaired pointer, Sigmund." [timothy.g.starr@gmail.com](mailto:timothy.g.starr@gmail.com)

**Jim Storey, M'69**, continues to serve as the chairperson of the Allegan (MI) County Board of Commissioners. A long time believer in and practitioner of public service, Jim was first elected in 2012, and - at present - likewise serves with the Macatawa Area Coordinating Council (of govts), Community Action Agency of Allegan County, and West Michigan Airport Authority, among other outreach responsibilities. [allegancountystorey@gmail.com](mailto:allegancountystorey@gmail.com)

In October, **David Sweeney, V'02**, advised of "...a really great night the other night celebrating turning 40. Not sure how I became 40 - certainly still feel younger - but here we are. A nice dinner at Rare Steakhouse in D.C. and then harkening back to younger days with friends and refreshments. Who knows what the forties will bring? My hope is stronger family bonds, continuing to improve as a person, and continuing to grow my career. I'm glad to have such great family and friends to celebrate with!" [david.sweeney1@gmail.com](mailto:david.sweeney1@gmail.com)

**John Vollmar, I'82** "This past September, I engineered a 7-week Tanzania and Australia trip with 6 family members/ friends to celebrate my 60th birthday. We started with a climb up Mt. Kilimanjaro: 19,300 feet. Four of us made it to the top! The altitude is no joke; it was a tough slog but worthwhile. Next, we visited the Serengeti. When we arrived, there were about 50 hippos and some crocs in the water - then a herd of about 20 elephants showed up to drink and bathe. That's Serengeti - a magical place and highly recommended!" [jvollmar@vollmarconsulting.com](mailto:jvollmar@vollmarconsulting.com)



**John Vollmar, I'82, with family and friends**



**David Sweeney, V'02**





# Never Forget These Brothers

News of the passing of these brothers has been received since publication of the July 2023 Sigma Phi Flame.

Edwin Decker Adams U'58 ..... 4/26/2023  
 James W. Atchison V'59 ..... 6/16/2023  
 Fred R. Ball L'48 ..... 3/10/2012  
 Charles V. Beckers Jr. U'62 ..... 12/1/2022  
 Edmund Colman Beebe Jr. G'58 ..... 7/22/2023  
 Byron Clark Benson M'53 ..... 6/11/2023  
 Otto George Berk G'48 ..... 12/21/2012  
 Robert E. Bethune W'53 ..... 8/6/2022  
 John A. Bolz, F'48 ..... 5/30/23  
 Philip J. Christ G'49 ..... 8/31/2012  
 William L. Clapham U'62 ..... 4/6/2023  
 Kenton Summers Coe G'49 ..... 12/29/2021  
 Paul M. Corwin U'73 ..... 3/15/2023  
 E. Webster Dann L'49 ..... 3/21/2017  
 George William Davenport III V'48 ..... 2/28/2021  
 Castle Nason Day W'52 ..... 11/30/2021  
 Andrew Edwin Doe V'49 ..... 7/12/2017  
 Alexander S. Flesh H'48 ..... 10/10/2021  
 Geoffrey J. Harter G'67 ..... 7/17/2020  
 Nathaniel H. Hartshorne H'49 ..... 3/28/2018  
 Myron Rogue Hemley I'55 ..... 2/23/2018  
 John Slayter Hill H'48 ..... 4/6/2015  
 Harrison R.K. Jahn C'49 ..... 10/30/2017

Bradley Parker Jordan C'72 ..... 1/26/2020  
 Robert McClellan Kisabeth Jr. U'65 ..... 2/19/2023  
 Donald K. Knapp F'50 ..... 7/4/2023  
 Irvin A. Kramer C'49 ..... 9/17/2022  
 Edward August Larson U'47 ..... 9/30/2015  
 Roger Lewis Likewise Sr. U'53 ..... 7/1/2023  
 William Doty Matthews U'53 ..... 11/21/2021  
 Gilbert R. McKown L'54 ..... 7/9/2023  
 Carl B. Menges H'48 ..... 9/8/2021  
 James B. Moran L'64 ..... 10/18/2022  
 Malcolm H. Mossman F'51 ..... 8/17/2019  
 Harold M. Ness Jr. G'49 ..... 2/6/2022  
 Elbert Dickerson Nostrand V'48 ..... 4/15/2015  
 Henry Paul O'Kray M'66 ..... 7/24/2023  
 James Eric Prevor C'80 ..... 11/7/2022  
 Walter W. Scott Jr. S'83 ..... 12/23/2019  
 Donald Francis Seaton Jr. M'49 ..... 5/12/2022  
 Van der Bogert Shanklin U'48 ..... 7/21/2023  
 James Allwood Taylor Jr. W'53 ..... 5/17/2023  
 David Van Ness G'48 ..... 3/2/2016  
 William D. Winslow H'64 ..... 2/26/2020  
 Lawrence Brown Woolson W'48 ..... 6/19/2018  
 Donald N. Zillman F'63 ..... 7/28/2023

## KUDOS & THANKS

...to the following Sigs for their articles, information or suggestions supporting this issue of the 'Flame': Liam Addy, S'22, David Arnold, C'73, J. B. Britten, V'02, Jim Cranston, U'67, Matt Forsys, S'23, Mike Giachino, I'72, Peter Grinde-Holevik, I'22, Zach Kizer, G'21, John Mason, S'55, Carter Norton, F'22 & Jake Savage, S'77.

We actively solicit Sig stories, perspectives and feedback, issue after issue. Why? Every time a reader circles back with a suggestion or a written contribution, it improves Sigma Phi's next magazine. Contact Editor Mike Imirie, M'69 (mimirie@aol.com) with your feedback and suggestions. Your thoughts are always welcome.



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Sigma Phi **FLAME**

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# Annual Dues: Giving Made Easier

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

**Member dues are lifelines for non-profit organizations.** At individual chapters and at the national organization, too, member contributions pay the bills. Dues remain the financial foundation for any non-profit.

You know that dues are used for Society administration, leadership training materials, event and ceremony planning, website enhancement, active chapter outreach and publication of the *Sigma Phi Flame*, among other key deliverables. Member dues add unmistakable value to our organization, making it possible for us to keep alumni informed and engaged.


Your recurring support is key. With inflation stubbornly persisting, your dues payments have never been more important. In order to make it easier for alumni to give, we've created another avenue for members to use to pay dues: QR codes for both annual dues and donations to the Sigma Phi Educational Foundation.

They are shown here (right). Just scan the beneficiary you choose using the QR reader on your phone, and you'll promptly move to a secure site where your donation can be made easily. No muss. No fuss.



Should you choose to continue to support the Thrice Illustrious the old fashioned way, of course, you can clip the coupon shown here and mail your dues or make your payment via the Sigma Phi website!

No matter which avenue you choose, know that your support - your continuing engagement - is **always** deeply appreciated and **always** put to very good use.

 **SIGMA PHI SOCIETY ANNUAL DUES**

\$500    \$250    \$100    other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Base-level dues:    \$75 (initiated 2013 and earlier)    \$50 (initiated 2014 and later)

**Sigma Phi Permanent Endowment**

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

*Make checks payable to the Sigma Phi Society.  
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Other avenues for dues? Please cut and mail this coupon or go online <https://sigma-phi-society.revv.co/alumnidues>, to make your dues 2023 payment.