

THE SIGMAN

LAMBDA CHI ALPHA ♦ SIGMA ZETA
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

JANUARY 2005

MEN OF SIGMA COME HOME TO 1601

October 9, 2004 was an exciting day for all men of Sigma in Ann Arbor. It was the first time in a decade that undergraduates and alumni of the chapter joined together to celebrate Homecoming at 1601 Washtenaw. Before the football game against Minnesota, about 60 student and alumni members of the chapter, wives, and visiting brothers from other chapters gathered for a festive brunch hosted by **Bill Hall '65** and his wife, Val, catered by the University of Michigan Business School. Other alumni present included **George Spasyk '49**, **Gary Hicks '51** and Rosemary, **Mark McQuiggan '54**, **George Friess '57** and Maiga, **Neil Taylor '58**, **Frank Lude '64** and Bea, **Jamie Quackenbush '70**, **Arnot Heller '72**, **Scott Channell '78**, **Craig Paige '79**, **John Jerge '83**, **Louis Theros '86**, **Tony Ling '00** and **Brad Quinn '01**. Other guests included former General Fraternity staff members Carl Schwab, Iowa '69 and Jeff Rath, Missouri '76 and current Fraternity staff members Brian Stone, California, Davis '03; Ty Weaver, Oklahoma City '04; Chris Hall, Florida Southern '04; Chris Sarris, Ferris State '89; and Don Mighell, Phi Gamma Delta, Texas '56.

As the brunch drew to a close, George Spasyk called everyone into the foyer. There he expressed his joy at seeing the letters of Lambda Chi Alpha once again mounted on the chapter house, and reviewed for those present the arduous road that led to this event. He paid tribute to those alumni who had contributed and continue to contribute their time, talent and treasure to make the chapter house as attractive as possible. He commended the undergraduates for their tremendous efforts in rebuilding the chapter. He also thanked the representatives of the General Fraternity for their assistance with the chapter's recruitment efforts.

Brother Spasyk then introduced Jamie Quackenbush, who had served as High Alpha of Sigma in 1969 and had just recently been appointed High Pi (Chapter Advisor) by the General Fraternity. Jamie presented a Certificate of Appreciation to George Friess for his dedicated service for the past ten years as President of the Lambda Chi Alpha Foundation, Inc., the house corporation of Sigma Zeta. For a number of years, during the chapter's period of inactivity in the mid-90s and during the recolonization period, George was virtually the only Sigma alumni presence in Ann Arbor. Later that afternoon, High Beta **Matt Martin '05** presented a certificate of appreciation to outgoing High Pi Jefferson Williams, Tennessee '79, for his four years of service as Chapter Advisor from 2000 to 2004.

Following the brunch, many of the alumni, friends and undergraduates journeyed to Michigan Stadium to watch the exciting 27-24 come-from-behind (again) win for the Wolverines over the Golden Gophers of Minnesota. The trip to the Big House included a traditional stop on Keech Street for some tailgating with George and his friends. A number of people stayed at the chapter house to watch the game on the big screen television, and throughout the rest of the day, many alumni stopped in to see the house, meet the actives and associate members, reminisce about their time here, or show it off to their children and wives.

Alumni can be assured that the grand tradition of Homecoming has been reestablished at Sigma Zeta and the undergraduate brothers and associates look forward to having more and more alumni stop by 1601 as their travels bring them to Ann Arbor.



Bill Hall hosted the Homecoming Brunch



George Friess was honored for his service to Sigma



Jamie Quackenbush greets Rosemary and Gary Hicks



The letters are back!

NEXT ALUMNI EVENT – APRIL 3, 2005

Come celebrate another traditional event, Lambda Chi Alpha's Founders Day, with the men of Sigma Zeta on Sunday, April 3, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. at the Chapter House. A traditional Sunday dinner will be served, and we will have representatives from the General Fraternity and the University present. All alumni, their wives and children, are invited. More details and registration information will be posted soon on the chapter's website:

www.umich.edu/~lxa

SIGMA ZETA OFFICERS — 2005

PRESIDENT (ALPHA)

Stephen Marin '06
Grand Ledge, Michigan

VICE PRESIDENT (BETA)

Mariano Lowenstern '08
Kentwood, Michigan

PHILANTHROPY CHAIRMAN (THETA)

Benjamin Landis '08
Exeter, New Hampshire

SECRETARY (GAMMA)

Daniel Fortune '06
Grosse Pointe Shores, Michigan

TREASURER (TAU)

Benjamin Hoff '06
Grand Rapids, Michigan

RISK MANAGER (IOTA)

James Crabtree '07
Grand Ledge, Michigan

FRATERNITY EDUCATOR (KAPPA)

Ethan Rein '07
Dearborn Heights, Michigan

RECRUITMENT CHAIRMAN (DELTA)

Ethan Pickering '08
Lafayette, Indiana

RITUALIST (PHI)

Brian McCorkle '07
Battle Creek, Michigan

SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRMAN (SIGMA)

Andrew Turckes '08
Dearborn, Michigan

SOCIAL CHAIRMAN (EPSILON)

Colin Campbell '08
Ann Arbor, Michigan

ALUMNI CHAIRMAN (RHO)

Sean Ruwart '08
Brownstown, Michigan

CHAPTER ADVISOR

James Quackenbush '70
Ann Arbor, Michigan

GREEK WEEK REPRESENTATIVES

Colin Campbell '08
Ann Arbor, Michigan
Nathan Whetsell '05
Longwood, Florida

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A MESSAGE FROM THE HIGH ALPHA

By Stephen Marin '06, Sigma 1829

It is with great pride that I write this article for *The Sigman*, the very first since reoccupying our precious home at 1601 Washtenaw. The actives of Sigma have been moving from house to house and have now occupied four different houses since being recolonized in the 1997-98 school year, but now **we are in our house for good!**

Along with moving back into our own house came a great many things. First I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you on behalf of the actives to everyone who contributed to our furniture fund. With it, we bought a conference table and chairs for the beautiful George W. Spasyk Chapter Room, and we were able to furnish the impressive foyer with first class furnishings that give people who enter an extremely positive impression of the kind of people who live here. We were able to purchase beds, mattresses, desks and chairs for the student rooms, and tables and chairs for the dining room. Next I would like to thank all of the alumni who have taken the time to visit us. Please remember that as much as this is our home, it also belongs to all brothers of Sigma Zeta.

Having our house back has also changed the mentality of the brothers here at 1601. We are beginning to realize more and more how important this house has been to more than 1800 initiates. Rather than just existing and doing what we could to recruit new men, we now realize the history that we represent and that has made a great difference. We also now realize that Lambda Chi Alpha is **the** class Fraternity on this campus and in this country and Canada.

Recruitment, though, is still tough. There is a mentality here that "frats" are only good for parties and drinking, so many incoming students are turned off by the whole "Greek scene." Our job is to get to know and make friends with these men who do not want to join a "frat." We are a



George Pomey removes last traces of previous occupants of 1601

Fraternity – and there is a huge difference between the two. It is a slow but worthwhile process and results are already showing in the class of brothers we have just initiated.

This fall, we associated eight new men, and all but one are freshmen. We initiated them on December 3, 2004, bringing our Chapter Roll to Sigma 1840. These new brothers are **Colin Campbell**, Ann Arbor; **Brian Coatta**, Cheboygan; **Daniel Fortune**, our lone junior, who is the son of **Dr. James Fortune '75**, Grosse Pointe Shores; **Benjamin Landis**, Exeter, New Hampshire; **Mariano Lowenstern**, Kentwood; **Ethan Pickering**, Lafayette, Indiana; **Sean Ruwart**, Brownstown; and **Andrew Turckes**, Dearborn.

With a new semester underway, we are continually searching out the small things that we can do to separate ourselves from other fraternities and to make the Lambda Chi experience as worthwhile as possible.

Please take the time to stop by whenever you can; our doors are always open to all Sigmen everywhere.



Steve Marin & George Spasyk at Delegates' Table at General Assembly in July 2004

CHAPTER BITS

- ❑ December saw the graduation of **Tommy Knowlton**. This brother has held many offices in the chapter and his contributions have been enormous. We wish him well in his career path.
- ❑ Actives and associates hosted a dinner at the chapter house for their parents in conjunction with the University's Parents Weekend on October 14. Some parents came from as far away as Florida and California. Dinner was catered by the ever-popular Zingerman's Deli of Ann Arbor.
- ❑ In keeping with another long-standing Sigma tradition, **James Crabtree '07** is a member of this year's highly acclaimed Michigan Glee Club.

THE SIGMAN

TRIUMPHANT HOMECOMING WAS THE RESULT OF HARD WORK BY MANY

When it had been confirmed last winter that Sigma would be back in its traditional house at 1601 Washtenaw, magnanimous alumni stepped forward to volunteer their time and money to help restore the house to its former glory. Soon after the house became empty on July 31, the first floor foyer and Spasyk Chapter Room were re-carpeted and professionally painted.

Continuing the long Sigma tradition of moving in the week before school begins to work on the house, an Alumni and Active Work Day was planned for August 28. Alumni who came out for this event were **George Spasyk '49**, **George Friess '57**, **George Grove '58**, **George Pomey '65**, **Jamie Quackenbush '70**, **Andy Knowlton '74**, **Tony Ling '00** and **Brad Quinn '01**. Also present from Headquarters were Joe Klimek, Chief Operating Officer of Lambda Chi Alpha Properties, which manages the property, and Brian Stone, LCAP Property Manager for 1601.

Outside work performed included trimming the hedges and spreading hardwood chips around the house and trees, cutting and trimming the lawn, ridding the driveway and parking lot of accumulated trash, and cleaning and power washing the basement window wells. Inside work included cleaning and rearranging the living room, furnishing the Spasyk Chapter Room, cleaning the dining room and kitchen floors, walls and cabinets, and prime-coating stairwells and several walls.

During the next few weeks, the undergraduates, with the help of Jamie Quackenbush, Matt Caestino (Rhode Island), Brad Quinn and Tony Ling continued to spruce up the house. The living room, front door, and the outdoor entry were painted, and more work was done on the bushes and trees around the front of the house.

In addition to the physical labor, many decorative pieces of artwork have been donated by alumni. When he came up for several football games, George Spasyk brought up many items which are now on display throughout the first floor. In the Chapter Room are the two Grand High Alpha awards for chapter excellence from 1976 and 1979, the original 1913 Charter, the 2002 Certificate of Rechartering, the Room Dedication Plaque, a handsome Coat-of-Arms decorative rug, two book-cases, a 14-foot mahogany conference

table with a Greek lamp centerpiece, 20 upholstered conference chairs and six side chairs. A Lambda Chi Alpha chime clock, candlesticks and sandglasses rest on the mantel. The bas-relief sculpture of the Coat-of-Arms above the mantel, which was built into the original house in 1926, has been restored to its original beauty.

The foyer is tastefully decorated with a sofa, credenza, side chairs, and appropriate wall artwork, including a three-foot-square needlepoint rendering of the badge. More gifts hang in the living room, including a limited edition print titled "The Game," depicting legendary football coach Bo Schembechler and the 1969 football team following the stunning 24-12 upset of Woody Hayes' No. 1 ranked Ohio State Buckeyes in Bo's first season as head coach at Michigan. A striking 4 x 6 foot print of a packed Michigan Stadium was donated by a former fraternity staff member, David J. Sarris, Ferris State '89, who has offered to work with the chapter on its ritual presentations.

The chapter is also working to build its collection of composite photographs. On its walls now are composites from 1946, 1951, 1957 through 1962, and 1965. Any donations of small sized (11 x 14 inch) composites would be welcome.



New Initiates: (front) Ben Landis, Colin Campbell, Andrew Turckes; (back) Sean Ruwart, Mario Lowenstern, Ethan Pickering. Missing: Brian Coatta, Dan Fortune.



'70s Reunion Group visits in September (from left) Andy Knowlton, George Isaac, Roger Whitaker, Todd Petersen, Dave Carlson, Gary Kreps, Ken Garman, Dave Jarvis.



Father and son, Andy Knowlton '73 and Tommy Knowlton '04, clean and scrub the kitchen.



Actives Ethan Rein and Steve Marin work on the shrubbery with...



...Alumni George Grove '58, George Pomey '64 and Jamie Quackenbush '70.



A corner of the foyer.



(Above and Below) Tailgating on Keech St. on football Saturdays.



A SLICE OF LIFE

By *Jamie Quackenbush '70*
High Pi, Sigma Zeta 1050

I cannot believe it has been 38 years since I first became a part of the Lambda Chi Alpha brotherhood. The years went so quickly and during that time, I have to admit that I lost track of what was happening at Sigma Zeta. Recently, I discovered that for most of those 38 years, the same good things continued to happen for each new generation of brothers. Sigma is back now, and my perception is that those who are currently in the chapter personify Lambda Chi Alpha at its finest.

Sigma Zeta hit an unpleasant and unfortunate series of incidents in the early '90s. It seems that we have all struggled to move past the closing of 1601 Washtenaw, but there will never be a better time to do so than now. With the new members recently initiated, 1601 is now inhabited by eager and conscientious brothers who have both the capability and every intention of bringing Lambda Chi Alpha back to its former stature within the Greek system and within the University of Michigan community.

We really need to see the faces of you alumni around the chapter house. It is always open for your visits. The brothers love to meet the "old-timers," and their hospitality is second to none. I would be more than happy to meet anyone at 1601 and take them on a tour. I expect most of you have not seen the changes to the house. Let me know when you want to swing by Lambda Chi Alpha, get re-connected to the fraternity, and move on to the good times we all fondly remember.

You can reach me by e-mail at: jamieq@bhconcepts.com or by regular mail at:

3244 Chamberlain Circle
Ann Arbor, MI 48103-8866.

The Sigman is published for the members and friends of Sigma Zeta of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity at the University of Michigan. The Editor of this issue is Ethan Rein and contributors include Steve Marin, Jamie Quackenbush '70, George Spasyk '49 and Nate Whetsell '04

Address changes, news items, photographs and contributions are always welcome and should be either sent in the enclosed envelope or mailed to:

Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity
Alumni Relations Office
P.O. Box 296
State College, PA 16804-0296.

Note: This is a new address.

Alumni News

WILLIAM F. RUZICKA '44

(3040 Hunting Valley Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48104-2843) I missed the 90th Anniversary dinner at Barton Hills last fall. I was house bound from major (life saving) operation which resulted in complete rebuild and repair of my spine at Northwestern University Hospital in Chicago. The only alums I see or talk to regularly are **Jim Weikel '44** and **Sam Rupert '42**. With the decline in the fraternity system at the U of M, I am concerned about the optimism of the present group taking over the chapter house again. I'm still upset over the absence of the true story regarding the actions of the last groups which resulted in the closing of the chapter.

Gary M. Hicks '51

(22955 Trailside Ct., Unit 108, Novi, MI 48375; aworldoftravel@webtv.net) I am semi-retired and do tours to China and Asia. Rosemary and I enjoyed Homecoming at 1601 in October. I wish you all God speed.

Neil A. Taylor '58

(1191 Post Ave., Holland, MI 49424) I retired with hunting, wood working, and bridge as prime hobbies. Great to be back at Homecoming in October.

Ronald A. Modreski '64

(7595 Lime Hollow Dr. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546; rkmod446@aol.com) I enjoyed Sigma's 90th anniversary last October. I saw many old brothers from the early '60's, including a visit and evening at **George Pomey's '64** home in Ann Arbor. I took early retirement from Vickers in 2000; I now serve on many boards in west Michigan and own a small consulting business helping small manufacturers. We also have a summer condo up near Travis City on Suttons Bay. Great for golfing, boating and winery tours.

Warren W. Huss '65

(P.O. Box 2153, Seward AK 99664-2153) I just retired after 35 years of practicing dentistry in Alaska.

Gary D. Gillespie '65

(4701 Jadestone Dr., Williamston, MI 48895-9426; gilles1899@aol.com) I retired from my medical practice after 27 years. I am enjoying travel, golf, fly-fishing and campus events, where I sometimes see **Mark Stuart '65** at the Michigan Marching Band's "Blast from the Past." Am pleased and relieved to know the chapter has reclaimed our home.

James A. Fortune '75

(75 Deeplands Rd., Grosse Pointe, MI 48236-2643; tuni53@aol.com) I remember

JANUARY 2005

Sigma Zeta being one of the more popular fraternities in the early to mid-70s. We had a great bunch of guys who enjoyed being together. I was proud to be a part of it. I want to see Lambda Chi back to its former prominence. It's been nearly 30 years since I left U of M. I just celebrated my 25th medical school reunion. My wife, Barbara, and I also celebrated our 25th anniversary. James Jr., Holy Cross '03, is in graduate school at Penn; Dan is a junior at Michigan, and was initiated into Sigma in December; and Allie is in 11th grade in Grosse Pointe. I marked my 50th birthday by setting a goal to run the Boston Marathon, and on April 19, 2004 I accomplished that goal.

George Isaac III '75

(844 San Ysidro Lane, Santa Barbara, CA 93108; gisaac@isaacgroup.com) I made the move to California this summer. Several of us from the 1970's, after reconnecting at last year's 90th Reunion, arranged another football weekend reunion in September. We visited the chapter house at 1601 Washtenaw and had a toast to celebrate with the Actives, the reopening of the chapter at 1601. I want to report that we were overwhelmed with joy at the excellent shape the house was in, thanks to a group of alumni who worked with the Actives to pull it all together. In particular, the George W. Spasyk Chapter Room, which could easily be mistaken for a Ritz Carlton board meeting room, is first class. This room and the foyer both show very well and will be very impressive for recruiting new members and for daily living. The area is a perfect place for meetings and studying at the house. More importantly, we were enormously impressed with the undergraduates, who gave us a very warm reception. They have worked very hard to bring the chapter back to 1601 and I'm confident they will be successful in building a first class chapter we will all be proud of. A special thanks to the leadership and hard labor of **George Friess '57**, House Corporation President, and **George Spasyk '49**, "Mr. Sigma." We encourage all alumni to stay involved, or get re-involved, with your counsel and, of course, your financial support. Our group included, most with spouses, **Gary Kreps '73**, **Roger Whitaker '73**, **Dave Jarvis '71**, **Todd Petersen '72**, **Andy Knowlton '73**, **Ken Garman '73**, **Dave Carlson '73**, and **George Isaac '75**. We've already made plans for next year's visit!

We are sorry to report the deaths of **W. Scott Chilman '67** and **J. William Schepers '60** since our last publication. Lambda Chi Alpha extends condolences to their families and friends. Bill Schepers' extensive involvement with Sigma and the General Fraternity will be covered in an article in a future issue of the Cross & Crescent.