

THE SIGMAN

LAMBDA CHI ALPHA ■ SIGMA ZETA
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
FEBRUARY 2009



Homecoming 2008

By Brian Hicks '10



Frank Lude '64 and his wife Bea enjoying the Homecoming festivities



Kyle Ogunbase '11, Ethan Rein '07, Pat Shamsuddoha '10, Julian Valencia '10, Mike List '11 prepare for the 2008 Homecoming Game.

Undergraduates, alumni, friends, and their families reunited once again at 1601 Washtenaw for the Homecoming football game on October 4, 2008.

Although the football team suffered a disappointing 45-20 loss to Illinois, the spirits were high at the Chapter house. Stories and memories from the past were exchanged over a noon meal, and the alumni had the opportunity to meet the current undergraduate members.

Alumni in attendance included **George Spasyk '49, Gordon Merritt '56, Neil Taylor '58, Gerry Merritt '59, Frank Lude '64, Mike Farrell '70, Rocky Pozza '71, Andy Knowlton '74, Brad LaLonde '75, Philip Navarre '80, Brad Quinn '01, Tommy Knowlton '04, Ethan Rein '07, Sean Ruwart '08, BJ Walraven Kettering '97, and Bob Curran Tulsa '80.** It was an enjoyable day for all.

Please mark your calendars for the next alumni gathering on March 22, 2009 for Founders Day where we will celebrate the Centennial Anniversary of our Fraternity.

Fall 2008 Initiates

By Chris VanDeusen '08

Four new brothers were brought into Sigma Zeta during the Fall of 2008. This group has already begun to take an active role in the Chapter. Recruitment for the Winter 2009 semester is underway.

Alexander Hamlin '12 is a freshman in Aerospace Engineering from South Lyon, Michigan. Alex is on the drumline in the Michigan Marching Band and is currently serving as Philanthropy Chairman (High Theta) in the Chapter.

Kyle-Prescott Ogunbase '11 is a Pre-Med student from Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. Kyle was elected Secretary (High Gamma) this year.

Eric Rodriguez '09 is majoring in Neuroscience and Spanish, and hopes to attend medical school. A long-time friend of many in the Chapter, Eric took the plunge into our brotherhood this fall. Eric is from Commerce, Michigan.

Andrew Zeilbeck '12 is a freshman from Northview, Michigan. Andrew is quickly becoming a leader on campus, serving on Hall Council for Markley Residence Hall and as the Chapter's Scholarship Chairman (High Sigma) and Social Chairman (High Epsilon).



Former High Pi Rocky Pozza '71 with George Spasyk '49.

2009 Calendar of Events

Sunday, March 22 - Founders Day

12:30 p.m. Buffet Dinner, 2:00 p.m. House Corporation Meeting

Friday, April 10, 7:00 p.m. - Chapter Initiation

Saturday, April 18, 12 Noon - Alumni Advisory Board Meeting

Saturday, August 8, 11:00 a.m. - 4th Annual George Pomey-Sigma Golf Outing at the University of Michigan Golf Course

Saturday, August 29, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Alumni/Active Work Day

Saturday, September 26, (Time TBA) - Homecoming Brunch Michigan vs. Indiana at The Big House

More information can be found at www.lcamichigan.com or by contacting High Rho Stephan Boettcher at sbetch@umich.edu. All at 1601 Washtenaw unless otherwise noted.

A Message from the High Alpha

Greetings Brothers. My name is Brian Hicks and I am the newly elected President for the 2009 year. I am a junior in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, from Traverse City, Michigan. This is my fifth active semester in Lambda Chi Alpha and I have previously had the privilege of conversing with you through my duties as the Alumni Chairman. So far, I have had a great experience with this Fraternity, and hope to make it better during my time as High Alpha.



For any alumnus who has been following this Chapter since its re-colonization a decade ago, it is obvious that Sigma has struggled to regain its presence on campus and live up to the glory and pride that so many of you experienced in the past. We have had our ups and downs, but for various reasons we have never been able to break free of the rut that we have been stuck in. However, the other officers and members have finally gotten on the same page with me and we all have the same goal in mind: to see Sigma succeed and rise again. We are giving it our all to dedicate ourselves to making one final push to get out of this rut. And it started with finally asking a few members to leave who could not dedicate themselves to this goal.

For the first time since I have been a brother, I feel that each member of the Fraternity is unified and holding themselves and each other accountable in regards to the success of this Fraternity. There is a passion in everyone's heart that is one hundred percent committed to the ideals of Lambda Chi Alpha and will give it their all in the areas of recruitment, campus involvement, and most importantly, brotherhood, in order to become better members of Lambda Chi Alpha and better men.

This is by no means an easy task. However, in just the last few weeks, we have made great progress in turning this house around. But there is still a long way to go. We have been fortunate to have strong alumni support over the past decade, and I encourage you to continue to have faith in us into the future.

Yours in Z.A.X.,
Brian Hicks
bthicks@umich.edu

Chapter Officer Retreat Held in Indianapolis

By Brian Hicks '10



The newly elected officers for the 2009 term spent the first weekend of the semester, January 9-10, in Indianapolis to work with the General Fraternity staff and set goals for the Chapter. A few alumni accompanied the officers to offer their input as well. These

alumni included **Ethan Rein '07**, **Mariano Lowenstern '08**, **Ryan Black '08** and **Wes Potts '08**. During the weekend, the Brothers were graciously hosted at the home of **George Spasyk '49**.

Saturday morning, everyone awoke early to "Reveille", played by Ryan Black. They then drove over to the General Fraternity Headquarters. The members engaged in a "Call to Arms" led by Director of Chapter Services, **John Holloway** and Executive Vice President, **Bill Farkas**. Their remarks ignited a passion in the brothers and led to a discussion on what it means

to be a Lambda Chi and how to take the Fraternity in a new direction.



Educational Leadership Consultant Kyle Shultz leads a group discussion for the Officer Retreat

Following that discussion, the brothers met with Educational Leadership Consultant **Kyle Shultz** and a few other staff members to draft a Membership Contract. This contract listed several key standards that every brother would hold themselves and each other accountable to. These points included upholding the appearance of the Chapter house by completing daily cleaning duties, attending all events with no more

than two excused absences, being actively involved in at least one student organization outside of the Fraternity, submitting the name of and actively recruiting at least one prospective member each week, and attending a weekly brotherhood event called "SigNight" every Thursday. These standards have been put in place and have already corrected many of the problems and bad habits that we fell into during the past year. The house is looking the best it ever has, and the feeling of brotherhood and unity has been restored.

Additionally, the Executive Committee drafted a mission statement as to their purpose, and practiced dealing with different scenarios in order to enforce the terms of the contract. Following the visit at Headquarters, the brothers returned to George Spasyk's home and created the budget and event calendar for the year.

Overall, it was an extremely productive weekend and everyone involved returned to Ann Arbor with a new outlook on where we wanted to take the Fraternity, and what must be done to achieve that goal. As we continue to make positive strides, we feel we are on our way to turning the Chapter around and returning to the lofty position we once enjoyed.

2009 Sigma Officers

President (High Alpha)
Brian Hicks '10

Vice President (High Beta)
Anthony Budzinski '10

Philanthropy Chairman (High Theta)
Alexander Hamlin '12

Secretary (High Gamma)
Kyle-Prescott Ogunbase '12

Treasurer (High Tau)
Chris Vivian '11

Risk Manager (High Iota)
Mike Texter '10

Fraternity Educator (High Kappa)
George Schick '11

Recruitment Chairman (High Delta)
Mishael "Shel" Kunji '11

Ritualist (High Phi)
Anthony Budzinski '10

Scholarship Chairman (High Sigma)
Andrew Zeilbeck '12

Social Chairman (High Epsilon)
Andrew Zeilbeck '12

Alumni Secretary (High Rho)
Stephan Boettcher '10

House Manager
Jake Hekker '09

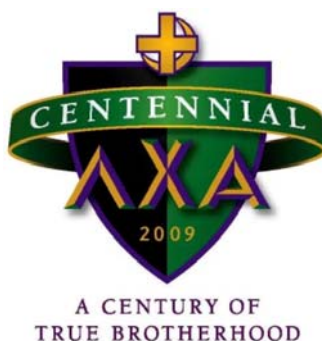
Acting Chapter Advisor (High Pi)
Mariano Lowenstern '09

The Chapter is currently seeking a Lambda Chi Alpha alumnus to fill the role of Chapter Advisor (High Pi). If you are interested, or know anyone who would be interested in serving the Chapter in this capacity, please contact Mariano Lowenstern at mlowenst@umich.edu.

Lambda Chi Alpha Centennial Alumni Receptions

In order to celebrate the Centennial year of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity, the General Fraternity has begun hosting 30 mini-celebrations in major cities across North America. The receptions will continue through June 2009. These receptions will present an opportunity for alumni to meet key volunteers and staff members, celebrate 100 years of rich history, and learn about plans for the second century. The regional receptions will be co-sponsored by several area alumni associations, which now exist in 15 cities. A reception is planned for April 21st at Plum Hollow Country Club in Southfield, Michigan.

A complete list of the remaining receptions and information about registering for them can be found at www.lambdachi.org. Once at the website, click on "Events" and then "Regional Celebrations." For more information on any of the receptions contact Lambda Chi Alpha Associate Director of Alumni Relations Dan Hartmann. Dan can be reached at dhartmann@lambdachi.org or by phone at 317-803-7357.



Visit the Chapter Online!

Please check out the chapter's website at: www.lcamichigan.com any time for the latest news, pictures, alumni profiles, and every issue of *The Sigman* from April 1932 to the present.

Bruce Galbraith '62 Recognized by School of Music



Bruce Galbraith '62 will be honored by the University of Michigan School of Music, Theater & Dance during the 2009 Homecoming weekend. The school's Alumni Board of Governors has voted to honor Bruce with the school's Hall of

Fame Award, formerly known as the Citation of Merit. Bruce joins an elite group of fewer than 100 alumni from the University of Michigan to receive this award, which is given to those who have made outstanding contributions to society, their profession, The U-M School of Music, Theater & Dance, or to one of its units, or the School of Music, Theater & Dance Alumni Society.

Bruce's education at Michigan and his subsequent career has taken him across the country and around the world where he has held a variety of posts as a performer, educator, and administrator. His career has included stops as the Executive Secretary of the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association at the University of Michigan, Director of the Interlochen Arts Academy and Vice President of the Interlochen Center for the Arts, and 15 years as Headmaster of Park Tudor School, a college preparatory school on the north side of Indianapolis. Bruce currently works as a senior search consultant, conducting searches of independent schools.

Bruce has served as the Chief Operating Officer for the Cum Laude Society since 1993. The Cum Laude Society, founded in 1906, is an academic honorary for high schools around the world. Its over 300 Chapters are located in the finest private and public schools in America and abroad. Bruce and his wife Karen are the organizational leaders of the Society.

During his time at Michigan, Bruce served as the Director of Sigma's 1962 IFC Championship Chorus, which performed a Student Prince Medley. After the performance, Dr. Phillip Duey said that the Sigma Chorus was as good as his Glee Club. Recently Bruce served as the Director of the Brotherhood Chorus at the 2008 Lambda Chi Alpha General Assembly in Phoenix, Arizona.

A recording of the Award Winning 1962 Sing team can be found at the chapter website, www.lcamichigan.com.

Since retiring, Bruce and Karen have made their winter home in Bonita Springs, Florida and spend their summers at their cottage in Ohio. Bruce can be reached at: bgal@mac.com.

Winter 2008 Sigma Graduates

Sigma said farewell to three undergraduate brothers at the December 2008 graduation festivities. We wish them well as they adjust to their new roles as Alumni Brothers.



Chris VanDeusen '08 graduated with a BSE in Materials Science and Engineering with a minor in mathematics. He

is currently working in Boston at Massachusetts General Hospital where he is developing and testing new materials for knee and hip replacement surgeries.



Doug Sayranian '08 graduated with a BS in Political Science and History. He is currently working in Grand Ha-

ven, Michigan as he applies to numerous law schools across the country.



Wes Potts '08 graduated with a BS in Political Science. He is currently residing in Trenton, Michigan where he has been interviewing with Prudential Insurance.

Alumni News and Notes

Scott Nielsen '04 received his BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) from Oakland University's School of Nursing this past December and is currently studying for the NCLEX (state board exam) to become a Registered Nurse.

Tommy Knowlton '04 completed his first semester of a Masters of Business Administration Program at Michigan State University. The focus of his program is Supply Chain Management with a secondary concentration in Finance.

Nate Whetsell '05 is living in Cambridge, Massachusetts and working for Bose as an Acoustical Engineer.

Ben Hoff '06 was accepted into the MS/Ph. D. Biomedical Engineering Program at the University of Michigan. Ben continues to work in the Center for Molecular Imaging research lab, studying various types of cancer and imaging techniques.

Steve Marin '06 has begun working in Pittsburgh at Bechtell-Bettis Laboratory in the Nuclear Engineering department.

Abe Oraiqat '07 and his wife Adrianna are expecting their first child, to be born July 21st. Abe is currently working on a Ph.D from the University of Michigan Applied Physics department.

The Sigman is published for the members and friends of Sigma Zeta of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity at the University of Michigan. Contributors to this issue include **Brian Hicks '10, Stephan Boettcher '10, Ethan Rein '07, Chris VanDeusen '08** and **George Spasyk '49**.

After graduating in Winter of 2007, **Andrew Daar** took the next semester off when he volunteered at a hospital and worked at a Chicago law firm. The following school year, he moved to the South Loop and started at DePaul Law. He is hoping to practice entertainment law.

Ethan Pickering will graduate in May 2009 with a B.A. in Spanish and a B.A. in Cultural Anthropology. In October, he will be leaving for two years to serve in the Peace Corps. Although he has not been assigned to a specific country yet, he has been told by the Peace Corps that he will be sent to French-speaking sub-Saharan Africa to work on a project in community development and water sanitation.



Bruce Koepfgen '74 (left) and **George Spasyk '49** (center) meet with Grand High Alpha **Ed Leonard, William Jewell '79** at a New York City Alumni Reception in May 2008, hosted by the Lambda Chi Alpha Educational Foundation. Although living in Winnetka, Illinois, Bruce is currently in New York, serving as Chief Executive Officer of Oppenheimer Capital, Dr. Leonard is President of Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas. George is Executive Vice President Emeritus of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity and a Board member of Sigma's House Corporation.

In Memoriam

William R. Jack '49 died in the United Kingdom September 30, 2008. Bill enjoyed a career that took him to Europe, Great Britain and South Africa, where he met his future wife, Patsy, a British subject. Upon his retirement, they settled down in her home village of Boscastle, a fishing village in Cornwall at the southern tip of England, a few miles from the remains of the legendary King Arthur's castle and nearby Plymouth, which was the starting point of the first Pilgrim voyage to America. Executive Vice President Emeritus **George Spasyk '49**, who was initiated with Bill in March 1947, recalls a delightful visit with Bill and Patsy in the Fall of 1990 when he was a guest in their 100-year-old home overlooking a vast sheep meadow on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean.

Gerald L. Groat '55 died in February 2008 in Lake Havasu City, Arizona. He is survived by his wife Nancy.

Alumni are encouraged to send news about themselves (career, family, civic activities, etc.) via email to:
ethanrein@gmail.com

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

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