

THE SIGMAN

LAMBDA CHI ALPHA ♦ SIGMA ZETA
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

MAY 2005

Sigma Celebrates Founders Day

Last Fall, the young brothers of Sigma restored a hallowed tradition, by hosting an alumni reunion at Homecoming, which included a brunch at the chapter house followed by group tailgating at The Big House before the game.

April 3, 2005 marked another renewal of a long-standing tradition at Sigma Zeta - the celebration of Lambda Chi Alpha's (and Sigma's) Founders Day, as about 40 alumni, wives, actives and associate members gathered at 1601 Washtenaw for a buffet dinner catered by Zingerman's, one of Ann Arbor's favorite food emporiums.



Alumni, wives, and undergraduates gathered at 1601 on April 3 for Founders Day Dinner

Alumni in attendance included **George Spasyk '49**, **Gary Hicks '51**, **Dick Good '57**, **George Friess '57** and his wife Maiga, **Paul Robertson '64** and his wife Jan, **George Pomey '65**, **Chuck Blackmer '65**, **Larry Grace '67**, **Dick VanHouse '67**, **Neil Taylor '68** and his wife Cindy, **Jamie Quackenbush '70** and his wife Susan, **Jim Fortune '75**, **Bill Brinkerhoff '87**, **Tony Ling '00**, **Brad Quinn '01**, **Sunil Sajani '02** and **Tommy Knowlton '04**.

Alumni enjoyed a tour of the house and were pleased with the appearance of the common areas, with most of the furnishings and improvements provided by the fund-raising efforts of the house corporation, led by George Friess and George Spasyk, who exhorted those present to renew their efforts to spread the word among their contemporaries that much remained to be done.

Two major projects were mentioned for alumni funding during the coming year; the furnishing of the big living room on the first floor, for which an alumna has already made a major commitment, and the basement area, which will include improvements and furnishing of the dining room and the furnishing of an entertainment lounge and meeting area to accommodate the anticipated growth of the chapter.

Undergraduates Learn from the Best

By Ethan Rein '07, Sigma 1832

When it became known last Fall that the Lambda Chi Alpha Midwest Regional Leadership Conference at Valparaiso University in Indiana would correspond to the start of the University of Michigan Spring Break, a group of Sigma Brothers began making plans to attend.

Two types of leadership education were offered at the Conference, Chapter Programming and Impact Leadership, the General Fraternity's four-stage leadership education program. Level I of the program is done at the chapter level, so Sigma organized an Impact Leadership event at the Chapter House.

On February 8, **John Holloway**, the Fraternity Director of Chapter Services, and **Tim Reuter**, an Educational Leadership Consultant, came to 1601 to spend an evening with nine Sigma undergraduates and nine Lambda Chis from Eastern Michigan, where we learned about our own leadership styles and how to better use our energy to benefit our chapters.

Two weeks later, eight undergraduates traveled to Valparaiso for the Leadership Conference, including Actives **Colin Campbell**, **Ben Hoff**, **Ben Landis**, **Mario Lowenstern**, **Steve Marin**, **Ethan Rein**, and **Andrew Turckes**, and Associate Member **Chris VanDeusen**. Three attended the Chapter Programming sessions where they learned how to run a chapter effectively, and the rest took Level II of Impact Leadership, where they learned how to work together as leaders, resolve conflicts, and establish goals.

Following the Conference, the Sigmans spent a few days at the Indianapolis home of **George Spasyk '49**, as so many Sigma Brothers have done before us. There he shared many stories of Sigma and Lambda Chi Alpha history. We toured the Fraternity Headquarters and the Indianapolis 500 track, and spent time with **Frank Maez**, **New Mexico '70**, former Director of Chapter Services.



Colin Campbell, Steve Marin, Ben Hoff, Mario Lowenstern, Chris VanDeusen, Andrew Turckes and Ethan Rein at Lambda Chi Alpha Headquarters in Indianapolis

A Message from the High Alpha

By Stephen Marin '06, Sigma 1829

A week before Spring break in February, I took a trip home to see my family, and drove back to Ann Arbor a few days later during a snowstorm. I always find it amazing how many people drive much too fast in the snow. And then I started thinking...

Driving in the snow is a calculated risk that involves many choices that need to be made in order to get to where you are going safely. As I was coming up to the US 23 exit toward Washtenaw, for example, I looked in my rearview mirror to see someone, who was approaching me rather quickly, spinning out; this was amid cars off the road about every 30 yards.

I find this highly symbolic of present day Greek life. There has been a constant influx of bad news this year. Someone died at a fraternity in Colorado, Delaware, Oklahoma, California, and even as close as Eastern Michigan in just the past year. Why are these people risking their own lives and the lives of others by living too fast?

Fraternities are meant to slow the hectic college life by giving students outlets through which they can get their minds off studies, and relax with good friends and brothers. But somewhere, even in Sigma's history, that ideal was lost. However, we Sigmen are now on the right track to getting, safely, to where we want to be.

One example of this was our spring break trip in late February. While other Michigan students were heading for the sunbelt, seven actives and one associate member spent spring break in the home state of Lambda Chi Alpha headquarters, Indiana. With the help of a \$1,000 grant from our alumni association, **made possible by gifts from alumni brothers**, we attended the Midwest Leadership Conference at Valparaiso University and spent much of the week in the Indianapolis home of **George Spasyk '49**, learning about Fraternity. As George has told me many times, back when Sigma was a Grand High Alpha Chapter (outstanding), a group of brothers would attend every Fraternity conference. **We intend to continue that tradition!**

We are aware that much more work needs to be done, but with every article I write, more and more positive signs are appearing. It was great sharing Founders Day with you on April 3. Please visit us often.

Sigma Zeta Officers and Alumni Mentors - 2005

PRESIDENT (ALPHA)

Stephen Marin '06
Grand Ledge, Michigan
Mentor: **Jamie Quackenbush '70**
Ann Arbor, Michigan

VICE PRESIDENT (BETA)

Mariano Lowenstern '08
Kentwood, Michigan
Mentor: **Jamie Quackenbush '70**
Ann Arbor, Michigan

PHILANTHROPY CHAIRMAN (THETA)

Benjamin Landis '08
Exeter, New Hampshire
Mentor: **Brad Quinn '01**
Ann Arbor, Michigan

SECRETARY (GAMMA)

Daniel Fortune '06
Grosse Pointe Shores, Michigan
Mentor: **Nate Whetsell '05**
Evanston, Illinois

RECRUITMENT CHAIRMAN (DELTA)

Ethan Pickering '08
Lafayette, Indiana
Mentors: **Dick Good '57**
Dayton, Ohio
Bill Mitchell '61
Brighton, Michigan

TREASURER (TAU)

Benjamin Hoff '06
Grand Rapids, Michigan
Mentor: **Andy Knowlton '73**
Grand Rapids, Michigan

RISK MANAGER (IOTA)

James Crabtree '07
Grand Ledge, Michigan
Mentor: **Jamie Quackenbush '70**
Ann Arbor, Michigan

FRATERNITY EDUCATOR (KAPPA)

Ethan Rein '07
Dearborn Heights, Michigan
Mentor: **George Spasyk '49**
Indianapolis, Indiana

RITUALIST (PHI)

Brian McCorkle '07
Battle Creek, Michigan
Mentor: **Tony Ling '00**
Ann Arbor, Michigan

SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRMAN (SIGMA)

Andrew Turckes '08
Dearborn, Michigan
Mentor: **Jeff Williams, Tennessee '79**
Ypsilanti, Michigan

SOCIAL CHAIRMAN (EPSILON)

Chris VanDeusen '08
Marysville, Michigan
Mentor: **Brad Quinn '01**
Ann Arbor, Michigan

ALUMNI CHAIRMAN (RHO)

Sean Ruwart '08
Brownstown, Michigan
Mentors: **George Pomey '65**
Ann Arbor, Michigan
The Sigman: **George Spasyk '49**
Indianapolis, Indiana

CHAPTER ADVISOR

James Quackenbush '70
Ann Arbor, Michigan

CHAPTER ADDRESS

1601 Washtenaw Ave.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104-3586

CHAPTER E-MAIL ADDRESS

lambdachi@umich.edu

CHAPTER WEB SITE

www.umich.edu/~lxa



1601 Washentaw - Spring of 2005

43-Year “Pledgeship” Is Finally Over

It only took 43 years, but we finally got **Irvin Clement Rabideau** initiated! In the words of classmate **Mark Stuart '65**, “My friendship with Irv began in the spring of 1962 when we were both pledged by Sigma Zeta. Our pledge class was very close-knit and the friendships that began then continue today. Irv was never initiated because he transferred to Eastern Michigan University because of their program in Library Science, graduated there and earned Masters Degrees and continued his doctoral studies at Wayne State University. Even after transferring, he maintained a close relationship with the chapter; he was always considered one of us.”

“**Ted Winkel '66**, had this to say, “I am ecstatic, proud and privileged to recommend Irv Rabideau for Honorary Membership in Lambda Chi Alpha. He transferred prior to initiation, but he was a ‘brother’ from the day we met and has remained the same over the ensuing years. His love of Lambda Chi and his fellow brothers has been unwavering. Irv and his wonderful wife, Marge, have been a continuing part of our extended Sigma family for more than forty years.”

When **George Spasyk '49**, who has known Irv for some 15 years, learned to his amazement that he was not actually a member, he proposed the possibility of honorary membership with the chapter and alumni. A formal petition was filed with the Grand High Zeta, and was quickly approved. In the company of several alumni, the chapter degree team performed

an impressive special exemption of the initiation ceremony at the chapter house on April 8, 2005. Among those present were **George Pomey '65**, **Gary Gillespie '65**,



Irv Rabideau (right) is joined (from left) by Ted Winkel, George Spasyk, Mark Stuart, Gary Gillespie, George Pomey and Bill Thompson

Mark Stuart '65, **Bill (Beaver) Thompson '65**, **Ted Winkel '66**, **George Spasyk '49** and **Dave Sarris, Ferris State '89**.

Following the ceremony, the actives and associate members, who would be initiated the following day, hosted a reception and refreshments in honor of their new “Brother,” which chapter historian Ethan Rein appropriately dubbed “The Afterglow With Rabideau.” Irv’s Zeta number is Sigma 1845, nearly a thousand higher than those of his pledge brothers. He conceded, “It was worth the wait.”

The Sigma Active Members - April 2005



Chapter Initiates Four More Undergraduates

Building on the initiation of eight new brothers last fall, Sigma added four more undergraduate members to its chapter roll on April 9, 2005. All of these men are already involved in a variety of activities and are defining roles for themselves within the chapter. Three of them will be involved in the Junior Interfraternity Council where they will shadow IFC members and learn more about the interfraternal side of Greek life; two have been through Level I of the General Fraternity’s Impact Leadership program, and one has been through Level II; one will be making sure the chapter’s website is updated more frequently, and all are involved in High Zeta committees.

Ibrahim (Abe) Oraiqat is a sophomore from Detroit, majoring in Chemical Engineering.

Michael Radtke is a freshman from Warren, Michigan, and has a dual major in Political Science and Economics.

Neal Turett is a freshman from Rochester Hills, Michigan, and his major is Electrical Engineering.

Chris VanDeusen is also a freshman from Marysville, Michigan, and is undecided on a major in the School of Engineering. He was recently elected High Epsilon, to oversee the social development and program of the chapter.

A glance at the list of officers on Page 2 shows that of the 12 High Zeta positions going into next year, 3 are seniors, 3 are juniors and 6 are sophomores. While a bit short on experience, there is an abundance of youthful enthusiasm. With the development of an alumni mentoring program, the alumni mentors listed with the officers they counsel are beginning to exert their influence and participation, and we anticipate the program will serve as a model for other chapters.



New Initiates Chris VanDeusen, Abe Oraiqat, Mike Radtke and Neal Turett

Three Brothers Graduate

The weekend of April 30 brought the collegiate careers of three brothers to an end and added three alumni to our roster:

Matt Martin, of Fennville, Michigan, has held the offices of Risk Manager, Social Chairman, and Vice President. He was a material science and engineering major and will be attending Indiana University School of Law.

Richard Shuma, of Buffalo Grove, Illinois, held the offices of Treasurer and Scholarship Chairman. He majored in mechanical engineering, and has taken a job in the Space Division of Lockheed Martin in the California Bay area.

Nate Whetsell, of Longwood, Florida, over a five-year period, has held every office in the chapter: Alpha, Beta, Theta, Gamma, Iota, Delta, Phi and Epsilon by election, and Tau, Kappa, Sigma and Rho by default when those officers left early or dropped by the wayside. Nate has dual degrees from the engineering and music schools, and has received a scholarship from Northwestern University to pursue a Masters Degree in music technology. In April he was recognized as a “Distinguished Greek Leader” by the Office of Greek Life. He will serve as Secretary of the newly constituted Sigma Alumni Association and as a mentor to the Chapter Secretary.

Alumni News

Cliff Taylor '64 - Chief Justice of Michigan Supreme Court

Clifford W. Taylor, Sigma 869, was elected Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court by the other Justices on January 6, 2005.

Cliff received a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan in 1964 and a law degree from George Washington University in 1967. After a 3-year tour of duty as a line officer in the U.S. Navy and one year as assistant Ingham County prosecuting attorney, he spent 20 years in private law practice.

In 1992, he was appointed by Governor John Engler to the Michigan Court of Appeals, and was subsequently elected to a 6-year term. On September 1, 1997, Engler appointed him to the Michigan Supreme Court to fill a vacancy, and the following year, he was elected to fill the remainder of that term. He was re-elected in 2000 to a full 8-year term. Every two years, the Justices elect one of their colleagues to serve as Chief Justice for two years, and by custom, a Chief Justice may be re-elected to a second 2-year term.



Photo by www.domagalaskiphotography.com

As an undergraduate in the early 60s, Cliff was one of many Sigmen who dominated the 45-fraternity IFC, as Cliff succeeded president **John Meyerholz '63**. Other Brothers who held IFC chairmanships included **Frank Lude '64**, **Paul Robertson '64** and **Bob Tobias '65**. The November 1963 issue of *The Cross & Crescent* carried a cover picture of Cliff and University president Dr. Harlan Hatcher, and an extensive article on Cliff's IFC service. Cliff and his wife, Lucille, live in a suburb of Lansing, Michigan. He can be reached at taylorc@courts.mi.gov

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 **Sean Ruwart '08** and contributors include **Steve Marin '06**, **Ethan Rein '07** and **George Spasyk '49**.

Address changes, news items, photographs and contributions are always welcome and may 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.

Sigmen Meet in D.C.

With the Washington Monument in the background, Sigma Brothers **Nick Ferreira '04**, **Bob Tobias '65** and **George Spasyk '49** met at a Lambda Chi Alpha reception on Capitol Hill. Also attending were several members of the Grand High Zeta and staff members of the Fraternity and Educational Foundation



Charles (Chuck) Cuson '52

(6865 North Columbus Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85718; ccuson@rocketmail.com) Surprised there are not more contributors to the Fraternity Furniture Fund, especially from the classes of 1949 through 1955. I have not seen the house since it was redone. On my next trip to Ann Arbor, I will be sure to drop in. Peg and I are well and working to keep it that way. We will leave for our Iowa farm soon and will return to Tucson in October. In the meantime, eat lots of soybean products and buy the gas with ethanol. That will make us soybean and corn farmers happy and hopefully rich.

Gordon Merritt '56

(11550 Night Heron Dr., Naples, FL 34119-8865; merrimail@worldnet.att.net) My wife "Char" and I live in Naples, Fla. near another Sigman, **Elliott Burd '56**. We are members of the U-M Alumni Club of SW Florida. Went to an



Gordie & Char with Brian Griese

Alumni Lunch recently with Brian Griese as the speaker. We still have a summer cottage in the U.P. in the Cheneaux Islands, and are there June to Oct. We spent 12 years in the Florida Keys where I did a lot of fishing. I'm now into watercolor painting, pottery and ceramics. Hope to make Homecoming next Fall.

Robert M. Tobias '65

(6108 Winnebago Rd., Bethesda, MD 20816-3142) After receiving his B.A. degree, Bob earned his M.B.A. at Michigan in 1968 and his J.D. at George Washington University in 1969.

Since 1999 he has been teaching at American University in Washington, D.C. where he is a Distinguished Practitioner in Residence. He is also the Director of the Institute for the Study of Public Policy Implementation at the University and is a Fellow at the National Academy of Public Administration.

From 1968 to 1999, Bob served with the

NEXT ALUMNI EVENT

2nd Annual Alumni-Active Work Day

On Saturday, August 27, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., alumni will join the actives of Sigma for an all-day work session to prepare 1601 for Fall term occupancy. Bring work clothes, paint brushes, tools, enthusiasm and an appetite.

HOMECOMING 2005

Saturday, October 8, 2005

9:30 a.m. Brunch

1601 Washtenaw - Ann Arbor

Michigan vs. Minnesota

THE BIG HOUSE

National Treasury Employees Union, as General Counsel from 1970-83 and as President from 1983-99.

President Clinton nominated and the Senate confirmed him as a member of the Internal Revenue Service Oversight Board, which has broad strategic and budget oversight responsibility for the IRS.

He has been appointed by Presidents and Cabinet members to numerous panels and committees dealing with labor-management relations and public policy issues, and has appeared frequently on television news shows, including The News Hour with Jim Lehrer, PBS; CNN News; MSNBC News; CNBC News; NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw; ABC News with Peter Jennings; CBS News with Dan Rather; and many radio and talk shows.

Bob plans to visit Sigma this Fall during the Ohio State football weekend.

Eric Arnold Haab '86

(2255 Orrington Ave., Evanston, IL 60201-2850; yeehaab@ameritech.net) Eric is managing partner of the 25 attorney Chicago office of Lovells, one of the largest law firms in the world — based in London. Eric and his wife Kim have 3 children ages 8, 6, and 1, who keep them busy.

Sunil Sajjani '00

(35228 Melton, Westland, MI 48186; ssajjani@umich.edu) I would like to stay in touch with the classes of 2000 through 03. Would also like information on events to be able to join and contribute. Enjoyed initiation of Irv Rabideau in April. I am a CPA working for a big four accounting firm in corporate tax, and I have my own tax firm/real estate rental business.

Nicholas Ferreira '04

(1530 Key Blvd. #611, Arlington, VA 22209; Nick. Ferreira@gmail.com) Since graduating last Spring, Nick has been a Research Analyst with the Corporate Executive Board in Washington, D.C. and his office is just a few blocks from The White House. Nick has stayed in touch with the Brothers at 1601 and went to several football games in Ann Arbor last Fall.

We are sorry to report the deaths of **Charles W. Bush**, **W. Patrick Cusick '53** (June 12, 2004), and **Thomas A. Gaffney '67** since our last publication. Lambda Chi Alpha extends condolences to their families and friends.