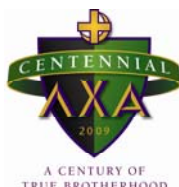


# THE SIGMAN

LAMBDA CHI ALPHA ■ SIGMA ZETA  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
DECEMBER 2009



## Lambda Chi Alpha: 100 Years and Counting

### Bob Kidder Heads Chrysler Partially taken from *The Cross and Crescent*

Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity began humbly in Boston in November 1909 and has been growing ever since. Expansion quickly began in the northeast United States. In 1913, a big leap forward was made in westward expansion with establishment of the eighth chapter which was Sigma Zeta at the University of Michigan.

Since that time, nearly 2000 University of Michigan students have been initiated into Lambda Chi Alpha. Ann Arbor has played host to national and regional meetings, including the historic 1919 General Assembly, the first meeting held in the then incomplete Michigan Union.

The Lambda Chi Alpha General Fraternity spent much of 2009 celebrating the 100th year of the Fraternity.

Throughout the year, regional alumni receptions were held in major cities around the country. These were hosted by the Lambda Chi Alpha Education Foundation. One such reception was held in Southfield, Michigan. A large group of Sigma alumni and undergraduates attended this reception. As is typical of University of Michigan alumni, Sigma alumni were found around the country at other regional receptions in places like Washington DC, Southern California, and Florida. **George Spasyk '49** was a featured speaker at many gatherings. Photos from these events can be found on pages 3 and 4.

The major event of the Centennial year of Lambda Chi Alpha was the Centennial Celebration, held in Indianapolis, Indiana. This multi-purpose convention attracted more than 800 alumni and undergraduates throughout North America.

A Leadership Seminar for undergraduates took place at Butler University. The Alumni Association sponsored four active members for this meeting. They were **Brian Hicks '10**, **Kyle-Prescott Ogunbase '11**, **Alexander Hamlin '12**, and **George Schick '11**. Annual awards were presented throughout the seminar, including an Alumni Publications award for *The Sigman*.

The weekend following the Leadership Seminar was filled with celebratory events. Hundreds of alumni joined the undergraduates for an exemplification of the Initiation Ritual, two fine banquets, and numerous other fellowship opportunities.

The banquet held on Friday, July 31 was dedicated to honoring Lambda Chi Alpha spiritual founder John E. Mason and Sigma's own **George Spasyk '49**, Executive Vice President Emeritus of the Fraternity. Speeches were made and videos presented highlighting George's 60+ years of service to the Fraternity.

As the Fraternity's 100th anniversary is celebrated, Sigma Brothers look forward to the 100th anniversary of our Chapter, which will be 2013. The Alumni Association is working on plans for this celebration.

On May 20, 2009, **C. Robert Kidder '67** was named the new chairman of Chrysler Group LLC. He continues to serve as CEO and chairman of his co-founded private investment firm, 3Stone Advisors LLC. He is also a board member of Morgan Stanley and Schering-Plough, Columbus Children's Hospital, and Ohio University.

Following his graduation from the University of Michigan, Bob joined the U.S. Navy and served as an officer in the Naval Civil Engineering Corps. He joined Duracell in 1980 as the vice president of Finance and Administration for Duracell Europe and then president of Duracell, Inc. in 1984. In 1988, he became the president and CEO of Duracell International, Inc.

In August 2008, at Lambda Chi Alpha's 52nd General Assembly in Phoenix, Arizona, Bob was awarded the Order of Achievement. Established in 1958, this award recognizes alumni for outstanding achievement in their professions.

During Bob's acceptance speech in Phoenix, he spoke about his time as an undergraduate in Lambda Chi Alpha and how it helped him to achieve the success he enjoys today.

At the 2009 George Pomey Golf Outing, Bob spoke positively about the opportunities that come at this time in the auto industry. In a statement on Chrysler's website, outgoing Chairman and CEO Robert Nardelli stated, "Bob will provide the leadership and strategic counsel that will help to create a strong global competitor moving forward."

Sigma congratulates Bob on his exciting opportunity.

## Sigma Golf Outing Rained Out

By George Spasyk '49

As a heavy rain pelted my hotel window in Ann Arbor at 8:00 a.m. Saturday, August 8, 2009, I just knew that the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual George Pomey-Sigma Golf Outing at the U of M Golf Course would be a total washout. My only role was to man the beverage cart, but I felt a sense of loss at not having another chance to fraternize with my Sigma Brothers once more.

Reaching host George Pomey on the phone, he agreed that there would be no golfing that day, but he said the food and beverages were ordered for a 4:00 p.m. after-golf buffet, and we could move that up to 1:00 p.m. and have a relaxed luncheon with those who did show up for the 11:00 a.m. tee-time. He was right – about 20 alumni and undergraduates did show up, and a delightful afternoon of food and fellowship ensued at the next door Ann Arbor Golf Club.

Bob Kidder '66, the newly named Chairman of Chrysler, was called upon to give us a review of his new responsibilities and challenges, and he graciously obliged. Other Brothers are pictured below. Although we missed out on the usual fun-filled day of golf, the event was salvaged in another memorable gathering of Sigma Brothers.

We look forward to the 5<sup>th</sup> Golf Outing August 7, 2010, so be on the lookout for your invitation. More photos on page 4.



Bill Hall, Bob Kidder, Paul Robertson



The Six Georges: Friess, Volis, Pomey, Grove, Sheffler, Spasyk

## Winter Term Initiates

By Stephan Boettcher '11

This past semester at 1601, we initiated two new brothers and associated one more. New to the brotherhood are **Michael Meehan '12** and **Eric Ringo '12**. Michael hails from scenic Bloomfield Hills, Michigan and was born on his grandpa's 80th birthday. Michael has not decided his major as yet. Eric Ringo comes from nearby South Lyon, Michigan and is a Certified Open Water SCUBA Diver. Eric is studying Chemical Engineering.

Our associate member is **Justin Chronowski '12**. Justin's hometown is East Grand Rapids, Michigan. He enjoys swimming and lifeguarding. Justin is a member of the class of 2012 and currently has no field of study.

## Founder's Day 2009

By Brian Hicks '10

On Sunday, March 22, 2009 the undergraduates of Sigma Zeta put on a Founders Day dinner for alumni and guests. A fine dinner was served and the academic awards for the Fall 2008 Academic Semester were distributed. The Bruce L. Koepfgen Award for highest semester grade point average went to **Mike List '11**, whose Fall 2008 GPA was 3.775. The William K. Hall award for Most Improved Semester GPA went to **Christopher VanDeusen '08**. Mike List '11, **Douglas Sayranian '09**, Christopher VanDeusen '09, and **George Schick '11** received the Paul Robertson, Jr. award for having a GPA of at least 3.50 for the semester.

After the dinner, the Alumni Association held its annual meeting. The mantle of president was passed from **George Friess '57** to **Andy Knowlton '73**. George's dedication to the Chapter will be remembered. He was honored by the General Fraternity with the Order of Merit in 2008, a recognition bestowed on 308 brothers in all of Lambda Chi Alpha's 100 year history. George's honor was reported in the Fall 2008 edition of **The Sigman**. Andy Knowlton has served for the past years as Vice President of the Alumni Association and his tenure is sure to be marked with great progress for the Fraternity.

## Recruitment Update

By Shel Kunji '11

Fall recruitment this year kicked off with the Lambda Chi Pigroast. This event had been planned for much of the Summer and I am proud to say it went off without a hitch, and accomplished its goal quite nicely, that is to say, we drew quite the crowd of freshmen, got our name out there and made a good impression. Throughout the next week or so various events were held at the house to meet more guys and get better acquainted with the ones we already knew. By the time formal IFC recruitment arrived we already had a large name base to work with.

At the end of formal recruitment we had six bids accepted and with the addition to the one associate member carried over from last semester, **Justin Chronowski '12** of Grand Rapids, this brings our total number to seven associates for the Fall of 2009.

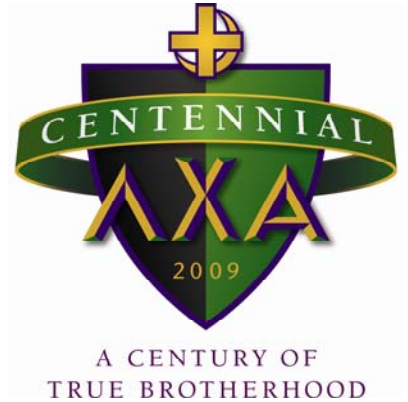
Help from the General Fraternity came in the form of **John Holmes**, an Educational Leadership Consultant, who stayed with the Chapter for two weeks during the recruitment period. With the impetus gained from our Fall efforts, we look forward to increasing our numbers in Winter term.

Our new associates are: **Ben Clark '13** and **Brent Doil '13** from Lapeer, Michigan, **John Morin '13** from Washington, DC, **Jordan Morningstar '13** from Ann Arbor, Michigan, **Carl Papa '12** from Beverly Hills, Michigan, and **Matthew Van Parys '13** from Saginaw, Michigan.

## Sigma Brothers Enjoy the Fraternity's 100th Year

Throughout 2009, brothers of Sigma Zeta attended alumni receptions around the country, hosted by the Lambda Chi Alpha Educational Foundation. The last issue of

*The Sigman* carried a photo from a reception in New York City. Below are photos from the Orlando, Naples, and Detroit Alumni receptions.



Above, left: The Orlando, Florida Reception (March 11), from left: George Spasyk '49, Chuck Cole '73.

Above, center: The Naples, Florida Reception (March 12), from left: Bruce Galbraith '62, his wife Karen, George Spasyk '49.

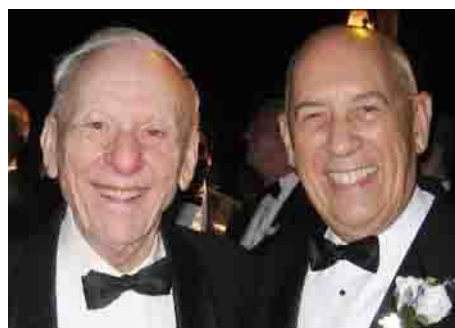
Left: The Detroit, Michigan Reception (April 21), from left: George Pomey '65, George Friess '57, David Wurster '79, Frank Lude '64, George Spasyk '49, Ron Modreski '64, Arnot Heller '72, Jeff Paulsen '79, Rocky Pozza '71. Many Sigma undergraduates were also in attendance at this event.

Lambda Chi Alpha celebrated its 100th Anniversary with a major celebration in Indianapolis, Indiana this past Summer. From July 29 to August 2, undergraduates and alumni gathered for leadership training, awards

presentations, historical reflection and planning for the future of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity. Below are photos from the event.



Here the Sigma Delegation poses with Grand High Alpha Ed Leonard. From left to right: Ethan Rein '07, Brian Hicks '10, Grand High Alpha Leonard, Alex Hamlin '12, Kyle-Prescott Ogunbase '11, George Spasyk '49, George Schick '11, Chris VanDeusen '08. Dr. Leonard is President of Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas.



Above: George Spasyk with Banquet speaker Bill Rasmussen, DePauw '54, Founder of ESPN Sports Network.

Right: George Spasyk and former staff member Dave Sarris, Ferris '89, display silver plate presented to George in appreciation for his 60 years of service to Lambda Chi Alpha.



## Founders Day 2009 Memories



Following the Founders Day Program, the Alumni Association had its annual meeting. Nate Whetsell '05 (above, left) was elected vice president. Dick Van House '67 (above, center) volunteered to act as a liaison between the alumni, the active chapter, and the General Fraternity. In the photo above and on the right, new president Andy Knowlton '72 (left) is pictured with outgoing president George Friess.



At the 2009 Founders Day celebration, the chapter presented Fall 2008 Academic Awards funded by the Alumni Association. Mike List '11 (left) receives the Bruce Koepfgen Academic Award for Highest Grade Point Average for the Fall 2008 Semester from Scholarship Chairman Andrew Zeilbeck '12 at the Founders Day Luncheon. Mike's GPA was 3.775 which earned him a \$150.00 grant and his name on the plaque. For a complete list of the award recipients, please see page 2.

## More Golf Outing Pictures



More photos from this Summer's Golf Outing are shown above:  
 Left: Frank Lude and Cliff Taylor.  
 Center: George Friess, George Grove, Nub Turner.  
 Right: Host George Pomey with Ethan Pickering, now in Mozambique with the Peace Corps.



Members of the Sigma delegation pose with Fraternity Executive Vice President Bill Farkas (center) at this Summer's Centennial Celebration.

**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 **Stephan Boettcher '10, Brian Hicks '10, Ethan Rein '07, George Spasyk '49, and George Friess '57.**



## Property Update

**Luke Hansen '09** spent a good deal of this past summer working on repairs at the Chapter House at 1601 Washtenaw. In return for his service, Luke was allowed to live rent free at the house. Luke worked on the exterior of the house in May, fixing a damaged downspout and pulling out dead bushes. He also mowed the lawn on a weekly basis.

Luke's focus then turned inward. He painted the second and third floor hallways and the game room in the basement. Luke also assured the safety and security of the property. Thanks to his diligence, there were no break ins over the Summer.

On August 28, alumni and active members of the Chapter gathered for the annual Alumni/Active Work Day. On that day, the exterior received attention it had been missing in recent years. Trees were trimmed, weeds were pulled, and the driveway/parking lot was cleaned. Inside, clutter was removed, and the foyer and kick molding throughout the house were painted. As a follow up project, **Colin Campbell '09** painted the bathroom on the second floor in the week following the work day. Much work was accomplished. Please join us next year!

Additionally, the biennial City of Ann Arbor rental property inspection was held this Fall. **Dick Van House '65**, House Manager **Gabe Johnson '12**, and **Matt Roy**, representing the General Fraternity, guided a city inspector through the house. Dick has volunteered to help coordinate between the Chapter, the General Fraternity and contractors when improvements are made to the chapter property.

## 2009 Great Lakes Conclave

*By Brian Hicks '10*

Over the weekend of March 27 – 29, the University of Akron Chapter (Gamma-Alpha Zeta) hosted the 2009 Great Lake Conclave. This Conclave consisted of Chapters from the Great Lakes region including Michigan, Central Michigan, Northern Michigan, Toronto, and several other Chapters from Ohio and Western Pennsylvania. Sigma sent five Brothers: **Brian Hicks '10**, **George Schick '11**, **Chris Vivian '11**, **Lucas Hansen '09**, and **Pat Shamsuddoha '10**.

At the Conclave, the Brothers attended workshops and discussions on improving Chapter operations such as Fraternity Education and Leadership Training. More importantly, the Brothers were also able to meet Brothers from different chapters and share ideas and experiences. Overall, it was a successful weekend, and everyone returned to Ann Arbor with several new ideas for improving the Chapter.

Funding for the Chapter to attend the 2009 Great Lakes Conclave generously was provided by the Sigma Alumni Association.

## A Look to the Future

Mark your calendars now for the 2010 Alumni Functions:

March 21, 2010 — **Founders Day Dinner** held at 1601 at noon.

August 7, 2010 — **5th Annual George Pomey-Sigma Alumni Golf Outing** held at the University of Michigan Golf Course.

August 28, 2010 — **Alumni/Active Work Day** held at 1601 at 9:00 a.m.

October 16, 2010 — **Homecoming** held at 1601. The game will be against Iowa. Time for this event will be announced in future issues of *The Sigman*.

## 2010 Sigma Officers

### **President (High Alpha)**

Gabe Johnson '12  
Houghton, Michigan

### **Vice President (High Beta)**

Alexander Hamlin '12  
South Lyon, Michigan

### **Philanthropy Chairman (High Theta)**

Ben Clark '13  
Columbiaville, Michigan

### **Secretary (High Gamma)**

Brent Doil '13  
Lapeer, Michigan

### **Treasurer (High Tau)**

Andrew Zeilbeck '12  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

### **Risk Manager (High Iota)**

Michael Meehan '12  
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

### **Fraternity Educator (High Kappa)**

Kyle-Prescott Ogunbase '11  
Southfield, Michigan

### **Recruitment Chairman (High Delta)**

Justin Chronowski '12  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

### **Ritualist (High Phi)**

George Schick '11  
Merion Station, Pennsylvania

### **Scholarship Chairman (High Sigma)**

Michael List '11  
Southfield, Michigan

### **Social Chairman (High Epsilon)**

Matthew Van Parys '13  
Freeland, Michigan

### **Alumni Secretary (High Rho)**

Jon Tillman '11  
Saline, Michigan

### **House Manager**

Patrick Shamsuddoha '10  
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

### **Acting Alumni Adviser (High Pi)**

Thomas Cecchini '66  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

# 2009 Sigma Graduates

By Stephan Boettcher '10

Sigma had two Brothers graduate this past semester. These Brothers, **Ryan Black '08** and **Lucas Hansen '09**, both have exciting plans for the future.

Ryan received a Master of Arts degree in Media Arts Technology along with BFAs in Jazz and Contemporary Improvisation - Trumpet, and Performing Arts Technology with

an emphasis in Sound Engineering. His future plans are to continue to work in the academic field, help educate faculty and students and maintain a balance between the technical work and artistic projects. He is working as an adjunct professor in the Audio Production program at the Illinois Institute of Art. He is living in Chicago playing some trumpet in recording

sessions, and working on building a recording studio.

Lucas is enrolled in the Simultaneous Graduate and Undergraduate Studies program and will be continuing to attend Michigan in the Fall to earn a Master of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering.

Sigma wishes best of luck to these alumni in their careers.

## Alumni News & Notes

**Chris VanDeusen '08** is working at the Patent & Trademark Office in Alexandria, VA, and living in Washington, DC. He serves as Patent Examiner in the Chemical Engineering area.

**Jim Wells '58** is still practicing medicine (Allergy-Immunology) in Oklahoma City. He's retired as a Professor Emeritus in the medical school. He says, "My wife, Mary, and I have six children, twelve grandchildren, two dogs and a cat. Life is good."

**Dave Breiholz '63** is still working as a consulting engineer in earthquake engineering. He says, "I hope to catch up with my Little Brother, Paul Robertson, and the Pioneer High Lambda Chis at the 2010 reunion."

Former High Pi **BJ Walraven** plays guitar and sings for the band View. Four years after View's debut self-

titled album, the band will release its second album, entitled "Moving On". Frenchie's in Depot Town, Ypsilanti, Michigan hosted a release party on October 24, 2009. More information at [viewtheband.com](http://viewtheband.com)

**Mariano Lowenstern '09** has taken a position at Kimball Physics Inc. Laboratory in Nashua, New Hampshire. He works in the physics department on the production of electron and ion guns that are sent around the world.

**Scott Neilsen '04** has taken a position as a nurse at the Veterans Affairs Hospital in Tampa, Florida.

**Andrew Turckes '08** will marry Leslie Savage (UM Class of 2009) in August 2010. Andrew and Leslie live and work in Southern California. They are Michigan natives and will wed in Glen Arbor, Michigan.

**Ethan Pickering '09** has begun work in Mozambique as a member of the Peace Corps. He has been there since September and is undergoing training before his work assignment begins.

## Visit the Chapter Online!

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

### IN MEMORIAM

**David N. Hurst '55** died May 9, 2009 in Wauseon, Ohio. Dave was a member of the Michigan Marching Band and remained a loyal Michigan football fan as a 40+ year season ticket holder. In 1998 he served as President of the Northwest U-M Alumni Association. He was owner of Hurst Realty and a 40-year member of the Wauseon Rotary, serving as President in 1974.

Dave is survived by his wife, Norma, six children and sixteen grandchildren.

**Gary M. Hicks '51**, died January 9, 2009 in Novi, Michigan at the age of 80. Gary was a native of Grand Rapids where he founded and operated the travel agency, A World of Travel. At Michigan he was a founding member of the Gilbert & Sullivan Society and took part in many performances throughout the State. He organized many Sigma reunions of Brothers from the 1940s and 50s. Gary is survived by a son and four daughters. His wife Marjorie predeceased him on the eve of their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

*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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Grayslake, IL 60030-7819*