

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN CHAPTER

THE SIGMAN

LAMBDA CHI ALPHA

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

MAY 1993

BUILDING CAMPAIGN AT A CRITICAL JUNCTURE SIGMA AT ANOTHER CROSSROAD

To the Brothers of Sigma:

You and I share something very special — the experience of being a Lambda Chi at the University of Michigan. The fraternity challenged us, inspired us, and helped us change the course of our future. We also recall the lasting friendships that began when we first joined Lambda Chi Alpha — the bonds of brotherhood that were forged during our college years. We can be proud that we are the beneficiaries of a truly exceptional educational and fraternal experience.

This month marks the 80th anniversary of Sigma Zeta at the university. How appropriate that in this significant year we are embarking on a \$1.1 million project to rebuild the chapter house that our founders could not have envisioned in 1913.

Throughout its 80 years, Sigma has been at a crossroad many times. The 1920s saw the need for a new chapter house — 1926 saw the realization of that dream. The Depression of the '30s was a trial for all fraternities — Sigma survived and thrived. In 1941, military service claimed 90 percent of the membership for participation in World War II — Sigma came back in 1946 stronger than ever. The Vietnam Era of the late '60s saw Michigan lose half of its fraternity — Sigma built an addition to the house in 1970 and filled it to capacity!

And now Sigma is at another crossroad. The beautiful home most alumni remember at 1601 Washtenaw is now 67 years old and beyond repair. Two years ago, a group of dedicated alumni came up with a plan to raise the necessary funds through voluntary contributions. So far we have received over \$600,000 in pledges, and this includes several gifts of \$50,000, \$25,000 and \$10,000 as well as lesser amounts. But this is still far short of our \$1 million goal — a portion of which will be used to establish an endowment for future maintenance and repair. This would assure that the chapter would not again be allowed to fall into disrepair.

The success of this project now rests with those alumni who have not yet made a commitment for the future of Sigma. Please give your thoughtful consideration to making that commitment now. And please make it as generous as your circumstances will permit. Don't find the most "comfortable" slot — I'm asking you to make this once-in-a-lifetime gift "sacrificial." The average gift has been \$2,500. Your pledge can be paid over a period of five years, but obviously, as much up-front money as possible is needed to finance the early stages of construction and debt service. You will find a pledge form enclosed with this newsletter. The project has already begun, so your positive response to the campaign is critical to the future of your chapter house.

Michigan is an exceptional university, Lambda Chi Alpha is an exceptional fraternity, and Sigma is an exceptional chapter that is worth preserving for generations to come. Please accept your share of responsibility by giving back to the chapter a part of what you have received. And please do it today.

Sincerely yours in ZAX,

George W. Spasyk '49

SIGMA CONTINUES TO CONQUER

By David Wheeler '94, High Alpha

As recently as a year ago, the university's Greek system was asked to evaluate itself and prove to the community and university its validity. At Sigma we have answered this challenge and are continually proving the usefulness of our existence. Many areas were to be addressed, and the result is a focus on making the fraternity experience a valuable one.

To do this, the men at Sigma continue to expand our roster of philanthropic events, which benefit not only the surrounding community, but also the members of the fraternity. An example of such a philanthropic event involved brothers ice skating with local underprivileged children. Another example is our annual fund-raiser, Winterfest, which annually raises over \$1,000. This year house members selected the United Way as the fund recipient.

Another reaffirmation of our founders' goals was the way we addressed the university's new alcohol policy. The Greek system was asked to remove alcohol as the focal point of their social functions, and many men of Sigma led the Greeks in the formation and continuing implementation of this new policy.

Yet these are not the only areas in which we excel. The members are also currently and consistently holding one of the highest academic standards on the campus, let alone the Greek system.

The brothers of 1601 have also excelled in the intramural sports program. Within one week, the house brought home the all-campus championships in ice hockey and basketball.

Continued on page two

TAKING PART EARLY

By Jarrett Benavidez '96, High Rho

The 1992 fall associate class is proving to be a great addition to Sigma. At this early stage, three new initiates have filled positions on High Zeta. Both Kevin Hickman '95 and Mark Sheldon '96 have taken on the duties of house managers. As we have seen in the past, this job is one of the most difficult and time consuming. The other office filled by a member of our associate class is the office that I have taken on, High Rho. Alumni relations are becoming stronger and more important than ever before through the reconstruction of our house, thus this job will be a very crucial one.

So what does this mean? Does it really make a difference how long the officers have been a part of this chapter? Of course it does. While the higher positions of Alpha, Beta, Gamma and Delta are held by upperclassmen, it is, in my opinion, important that some of our younger members get involved early in their fraternal lives. Our experience at this early stage will provide us with the necessary experience and knowledge that it will take for us to run the show when it is our turn. Our associate class has already demonstrated that it is willing to take part in important activities such as holding offices, participating in philanthropic events and even simple things like keeping the house clean in order to make the jobs of the construction workers as easy as possible.

We feel that our associate class is a very strong one. We feel that it will play a key roll in keeping our house one of the best on campus and, more importantly, keeping it together. We, the youngest active undergraduate members of Lambda Chi Alpha, have already witnessed a great turn for the better by the older members of the house, and our intent is to continue improving our chapter to make it even greater than it is already.



WOLVERINE FOOTBALL 1993

September

4 WASHINGTON STATE
11 NOTRE DAME
25 HOUSTON

October

2 IOWA
9 at Mich. State
16 at Penn State
23 ILLINOIS (Homecoming)
30 at Wisconsin

November

6 PURDUE
13 at Minnesota
20 OHIO STATE

AN ASSOCIATE'S VIEW

By Mike DeNardis '96, Winter Associate

As an associate of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity, I have learned many things about friendship, honesty and, above all, brotherhood. In the few short weeks I have been an associate of this fraternity, I have witnessed all sorts of good deeds and actions that have amazed me. From the first moment I walked through the door, I was overwhelmed by a sense of unity and wellbeing. The brothers of the house all share a common bond. It is as if they have known one another all their lives. This is evident by the amount of trust displayed in the house. There is almost never a locked door or a room unoccupied. Another positive aspect I have noticed is the amount of openness and care displayed by all the brothers. I would not hesitate to discuss any problem, no matter how large or small, with any house members.

Also as an associate, I never have to worry about hazing in any way, shape or form. The brothers are always understanding if associates are unable to make it to the house for an event because they have a test or an assignment due. Our Academic Chairman, Charles Stumb '95, stresses that good grades are very important to all members of the house. You would be hard pressed to find a better, more noble group of men on campus than at Lambda Chi Alpha at the University of Michigan.

SIGMA CONTINUES TO CONQUER

Continued from front page

These efforts by the many young men of Sigma are showing in not only sports and philanthropic events, but also in all aspects of campus life. Through the hard work by each member, the entire fraternal experience is enhanced for all. This effort also results in the positive interaction of the surrounding community with a worthwhile organization.

I would like to thank all those who have become involved in the current reconstruction of the house and encourage those not involved to become involved. Also, the men of Sigma and I would like to thank Ed Downs '65 for his outstanding service and hard work as our alumni adviser. It will be difficult to fill Ed's shoes, but right now we are seeking a replacement for his position as High Pi. If you or anybody you know might be interested in becoming our chapter adviser, please contact David Wheeler '94, High Alpha, at the following address so that we can send you an application: Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity, 1601 Washtenaw, Ann Arbor, MI 48104.



SIGMA ZETA

OFFICERS

HIGH ALPHA

David J. Wheeler '94
Ypsilanti, Mich.
Economics

HIGH BETA

Matthew A. Narber '95
Seattle, Wash.
Business

HIGH DELTA

Donald H. Burgess '94
Lancaster, Pa.
Pre-medicine

HIGH GAMMA

Nadeem N. Elian '95
Grosse Pointe Woods, Mich.
Business

HIGH EPSILON (Co-chairs)

David A. DeYoung '95
Ann Arbor, Mich.
Education

Joshua S. Broder '95
Birmingham, Mich.
Liberal Arts

HIGH SIGMA

Charles E. Stumb '95
Grosse Pointe, Mich.
General Studies

HIGH RHO

Jarrett K. Benavidez '96
Grosse Pointe Park, Mich.
Business

HIGH IOTA

Michael S. Panutich '95
Topsfield, Mass.
Biology

HIGH PHI

Brian R. Gordon '94
Palm Harbor, Fla.
Psychology

HIGH KAPPA

Paul K. Foze '95
Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich.
Biology

HIGH DELTA

Jason Abramson '94
East Windsor, N.J.
Undecided

HOUSE MANAGERS

Kevin I. Hickman '95
Ypsilanti, Mich.
General Studies

Mark D. Sheldon '96
Denver, Colo.
Engineering

CHI HOOPS!

By D. J. Reynolds '96

As the new year began, so did the 1993 Lambda Chi Alpha intramural basketball season. From the beginning, this year's team was anticipated to be a very serious contender for the AA Intramural Fraternity Championship. The team was led by a very balanced attack, which included excellent post players along with talented guards. This year's team was led by D. J. Reynolds '96 and Kurt Neumann '95 at the guard positions; Matt Brady '93 and Domenic Marilotti '93 as the forwards; and Charlie Stumb '95 in the middle along with Juan Angelats '94 coming off the bench with his defensive prowess.

The season consisted of three regular season games with two victories guaranteeing a spot in the playoffs, which consisted of a single game elimination. The team started the regular season with three straight wins against some very worthy opponents. Following the regular season victories, the team's confidence was riding high. Our big men were rebounding well, and the guards were playing consistent basketball.

We started the playoffs as one of two teams that didn't receive a first round bye, however this was only a small obstacle that we easily overcame. After the first victory, we went on to win the next two games, qualifying us for the Final Four. The semifinal game was a tough battle against the defending champs, Sigma Alpha Mu, but at the final buzzer, we were on top and looking forward to the next game, which would be for the championship.

The final game started off as a nightmare. Our opponent, Sigma Nu, jumped out to a quick 11-0 lead on perfect shooting. Soon our guards started to hit their jump shots and Sigma Nu began to miss some shots. By halftime we cut the lead to four points when tragedy struck as one of our big men, Matt Brady, went down with a bad knee one second before the half ended. Although this was a setback, it was not enough to hamper our determination to bring home the championship to Lambda Chi. We started the second half with a great team play and soon jumped to an eight point lead. With some great rebounding and defense by Juan, Kurt and Charlie, we maintained the lead. With under 20 seconds remaining in the game, clutch free-throw shooting helped seal the victory as D. J. made four and Domenic, one.

As anticipated, the team was successful in its quest for a championship. With this great accomplishment behind us, we look to a bright future for our team. With almost everyone returning next year, look for us to contend our title in '94.



Alumni News



"I have fond memories of the University of Michigan and hope to get back for a visit," writes **Edwin E. Van Cleaf '28**. "Van" is retired and lives with his daughter and family at 320 Autobees Rd., Avondale, CO 81022.

You can reach **Charles R. Ashton '34** by writing to 6551 Red Cedar Ln., West Bloomfield, MI 48324.

Studying German and playing golf three times a week keeps **Warren L. Heller '44** (396 Belle Monti Court, Aptos, CA 95003) busy most of the time. He and his wife, Betty, live on a golf course that is 1,000 yards from the Pacific Ocean. They have three sons and five grandchildren.

Howard Whisler '44 (Black Walnut Ln., 4776 Co. Rd. #15, Ada, OH 45810) retired from Ohio Northern University in 1991, and now lives on five acres of country land.

Architect **Donald F. Pitz '50** (167 Thompson Blvd., Watertown, NY 13601) retired from full-time work in 1991, but still does some consulting. Don reports that his sixth grandchild was born this past New Year's Eve.

When he last wrote, **John Whaite '50** (417 Dutch Mills Dr., Flushing, MI 48433) and his wife, Shurly, and **Claude Morehouse '50** and his wife, Ann, were about to leave on a one month trip to Australia, New Zealand, Bangkok, Singapore and Hong Kong. Jack stays in touch with Marge and

Ray Reece '50, who spend the winters in Sun City, Ariz.

Ronald L. O'Connell '53 (547 West Fort Island Trail #E, Crystal River, FL 34429) is a certified financial planner.

Elliot E. Burd '56 (2119 Kimrick Pl., Timonium, MD 41093) is vice president of marketing for Medical Life Insurance Co. "Burdie" gets together with Connie and **Fran Lemire '55** on occasion.

Edward H. Wahtera '61 (107 Cove Creek Ln., Houston, TX 77042) works for Andersen Consulting.

"I really enjoy *The Sigman* and news of the brothers," writes general manager for the Trinova Corp. (Vickers) **Ronald A. Modreski '63** (7595 Lime Hollow Dr. S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49546). He is glad to be back in Michigan after 13 years in Jackson, Miss., and now enjoys working with the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce and attending Wolverine basketball and football games. Ronald stays in touch with **George Pomey '64**, **Mike Knapp '63** and **Paul Robertson '63**, and reports that he saw **Dave Sheldon '64** about five years ago on an airplane flight to Mississippi.

John T. Drewry '64 (110 Commonage Dr., Great Falls, VA 22066) is vice president of Advanced Marine. John and his wife both survived their 50th birthdays and are in good health and enjoying life.

When he last wrote, **John Richard Moorhead '64** (19 Heatheridge, Ann Arbor, MI 48104) had recently adopted a new daughter, Becca. Jack is a partner in WM Associates, Inc.

David Sheldon '64 (3016 Osceola St., Denver, CO 80212) has a son, Mark, who pledged Lambda Chi Alpha last fall. "Percy" reports that "lost" Brother **Mike Knapp '63** (7292 Eldred, Rockford, MI 49341) is a part-time lawyer in Michigan and a part-time ski instructor in Aspen, Colo. He also located **Bill Lincoln '63**, who lives at 1075 Zinnia St., Golden, CO 80401.

Retired commercial banker **Van W. Tillotson '66** (312 N. Washington Ave., Ludington, MI 49431) is looking forward to seeing **George Pomey '64**, **John Clawson '65**, **John Thompson '65**, **Dan Brown '66** and other brothers at the '65-'66 basketball reunion in June 1993.

Larry Grace '67 (2841 Provincial, Ann Arbor, MI 48104) is a banker with Michigan National Bank. Larry found "lost" brothers **Peter Vlisides '67** (4904 Midmoor, Minona, WI 53716) and **Kent Walton '67** (6331 Peninsula Dr., Traverse City, MI 49684). Thanks for the help!

More News 

More Alumni News

Thomas J. Gaffney '68 (3119 Riverside Dr., Port Huron, MI 48060) is a manager with Marshall Campbell. Tom stays in touch with **Fred Linscheid '39** and **Ray DePalma '68**.

President and CEO of Modern Metalcraft, Inc., **John D. McPeak '68** (3434 N. Bent Oak Dr., Midland, MI 48640) recently returned to the family business after 21 years with Fisher Contracting. John's wife, Janet, teaches at Notre Dame University, and they are involved in several charitable organizations in Rochester, Mich. He gets together with **Thomas M. Heidtke '68** and **Lawrence I. McKay '68** at least once a year for a fishing trip.

Eric Adamy '70 (7381 Cascade Ter., Grand Rapids, MI 49546) is a CPA with Adamy & Co. "Rick" and his wife have a son, Nick, who plans to attend the University of Michigan in the fall, and a daughter, Janet, who is already talking about Michigan. They look forward to visiting Ann Arbor more often.

After eight years of working for the University of California as a financial manager, **Steve Grimm '75** (26762 Anadale Dr., Laguna Hills, CA 92653) is now in private practice as a financial adviser to professionals and small businesses. "Grizzly" attended his 20th high school reunion last summer, and saw **Jim Olsen '76** and **Karl Ibershoff '75**, both of whom, he reports, are doing well and still know how to party. He stays in touch with Cindy and **Jeff Neal '75**, who are the proud parents of a new baby boy.

James G. Olsen '76 (2235 Lakeshore Dr., Muskegon, MI 49441) left private law practice two years ago and is now probate court administrator/referee with the Muskegon County Probate Court. He and his wife, Kim, have two children.

"Thanks for *The Sigman*," writes **Gerry Olson '78** (318 Orchard Ln., Bloomingdale, IL 60108), who would like to hear more from the brothers. Gerry is vice president of the F.H. Paschen Group, a construction company specializing in bridge and highway construction. He and his wife, Ruth Ann, have four children, ages two through nine.

"Congratulations on an outstanding issue of *The Sigman*," writes **Thomas Maentz '80** (1488 Scott Ave., Winnetka, IL 60093) about the January 1993 edition. He really

enjoys hearing news of the house and the current status of the brotherhood. Tom is assistant vice president for Merrill Lynch Consumer Markets in Chicago.

The new address for **Geoffrey R. O'Connor '80** is 7259 Colony Dr., West Bloomfield, MI 48323.

Robert G. Hiss '81 (405 Marlborough St. #21, Boston, MA 02115) is a manager for Andersen Consulting. He and his wife are celebrating their 10th wedding anniversary this year. Bob stays in touch with **Jan Matejka '80**, an anesthesiologist at Massachusetts General Hospital, **Jim O'Connor '82**, who works for the Monitor Company, and **Steve Scheidt '78**, who is a product manager for Compuware.

The new address for periodontist **Richard Lenzi '81** is 26711 Woodward #108, Huntington Woods, MI 48070. He went into private practice in April 1992.

Frequent trips to national parks, including Yellowstone, Teton, Yosemite and Rocky Mountain, occupy the free time of endodontist **Daron Yarjanian '81** (6455 Mission Ct., West Bloomfield, MI 48324) and his wife, Kathleen. They enjoy hiking and mountain biking. They also traveled to Palm Beach recently with **Dave Johnson '81** and his wife, Kathy. Daron sees **Rainer Schmidt '81** and **Nick Schmidt '82** regularly and talks with **David Miles '81**, now a general surgeon in Wilmington, N.C.

Stephen A. Birkhold '82 (6431 Hillegass Ave., Oakland, CA 94618) now works for the Nestle Beverage Co. in San Francisco.

"Homecoming '92 was great," writes **Joe Parke '82** (34 Newberry, Grosse Pointe, MI 48236), who is an account manager with Carlson Marketing Group, a motivation and marketing services company. J.P. and his wife, Jenny, have three children.

Brian Muma '87 (2640 Walnut Lake Rd., West Bloomfield, MI 48323) is a management consultant with Plante & Moran in Southfield, Mich.

Architect **Michael Van Schelven '87** (436 Slayton, Grand Haven, MI 49417) and his wife have been busy renovating a 96-year-old house in Grand Haven.

The new address for **Richard J. Gagnon '88** is 4701 Kenmore Ave., Alexandria, VA 22304. He is an attorney doing tax litigation for the U.S. Department of Justice, mostly

in Boston and Chicago. "Jake" traveled to Africa in the fall of 1992 and visited Uganda and Kenya. He reports that **Matt Carstens '86** and his wife, Jennifer, live in northern Virginia, and that Matt is finishing his master's degree in history at American University and working as a paralegal.

James A. Lico '88 can be reached at 27310 Selkirk, Southfield, MI 48076. He is a senior buyer for General Motors.

U.S. Naval Officer **Peter W. Riehl '89** (1216 S. Sherbourne #302, Los Angeles, CA 90035) returned from a six-month deployment in the Northern Arabian Gulf in January 1993. "Flyboy" married Ashley Nelson in October 1992.

Tarek F.M. Saad '89 now resides at 2808 McKinney Ave. #805, Dallas, TX 75204, and is an attorney with Hughes & Luce. "T. Saad" reports that **Greg Dalvito '89** apprehended an ex-convict who was assaulting a woman outside of a bar in New York City on New Year's Eve. Greg was given the city's Outstanding Citizen award, and was recognized at a ceremony attended by the mayor.

Chris Mason '90 (501 Groff Ct. N.E., Washington, DC 20002) is now working for the Environmental Protection Agency in the Office of Urban Sanitation. He stays in touch with **Dave Williams '89**.

"This is great work and a good idea," writes **Chris Ordway '91** (4192 E. Gull Lake Dr., Hickory Corners, MI 49060) of *The Sigman*. "Ordy" believes that the alumni have a lot to offer and are very willing to get involved in activities that help them stay in touch with the brotherhood.

A legal assistant with Danzinger & Mack in Washington, D.C., **Martin Saad '92** (1776 T St. N.W., Washington, DC 20009) is enjoying life in his new environment. "Gunther" stays in touch with a number of brothers, including **Greg Keegstra '89**, **Chris Mason '90**, **Steve Berg '91**, **Doug Lucas '92**, **Adam Kulakow '88** and **Jeff Rossman '92**, and would like to hear from **Andy Fisher '92**.

Since our last publication, we have learned of the death of the following brothers:

W. Victor Owen '25 (12/23/92),
Richard Sterling Cole '30 (9/10/92) and
Charles O. Marshall (9/24/92).

Lambda Chi Alpha extends condolences to their families and friends.

The Sigman is published for the members and friends of Sigma Zeta of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity at the University of Michigan. Address changes, news items and photographs are always welcome and should either be sent in the enclosed envelope or mailed to Alumni Records Office, Lambda Chi Alpha, P.O. Box 2019, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-2019.