

THE SIGMAN

LAMBDA CHI ALPHA ♦ SIGMA ZETA
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

MAY 2003

SIGMA CELEBRATES 90TH ANNIVERSARY, RETURN OF CHARTER IN OCTOBER

"We, the undersigned, hereby declare our intentions of establishing a Chapter of the Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity at the University of Michigan, which is situated at Ann Arbor in the State of Michigan; and respectfully petition for a charter giving us the authority to establish the above mentioned Chapter.

Signed: P. Jay Lockwood, Leland Frank Reynolds, Albert H. Dredge, F.W. Bolin, Harry Conroy Kreeger, James R. Leece, Byron J. Carpenter. March 17th 1913."

That modest petition was forwarded to Lambda Chi Alpha President Warren A. Cole in Massachusetts – the young Fraternity then had seven chapters, five in New England and two in Pennsylvania. Wishing to open the West to expansion, the petition from Ann Arbor was quickly accepted, and Sigma Zeta became the 8th chapter of Lambda Chi Alpha on March 31, 1913. The chapter roll now includes more than 1,800 initiates.

On Oct. 25, 2003, Sigma will celebrate its 90th year at the University of Michigan with a full weekend of activities in conjunction with the UM-Purdue football game. The occasion will also mark the formal return of the charter to Sigma. Following a two-year inactive period and a four-year recolonization effort, the General Assembly in Denver on Aug. 3, 2002, officially approved the return of the chapter to good standing.

Last Fall, an Anniversary Committee was assembled, with **George Isaac '75**, recruited as chairman, and including **Clarence**

(Rocky) Pozza '71; Dr. Gary Kreps '73; then Chapter President (High Alpha) **Nate Whetsell '05;** and **George Spasyk '49** as honorary chairman. They have been assisted by Chapter Adviser (High Pi) **Jeff Williams, Tennessee '79; Bill Schepers '60; Dick Good '57;** House Corporation President **George Friess '57;** Director **Bill Mitchell '61;** current High Alpha **Tony Sassi '04;** and Alumni Chairman (High Rho) **Christian Knudson '05.**

A block of rooms for out-of-town alumni has been reserved at the Holiday Inn Express at Briarwood Mall, at the northwest junction of I-94 and South State Street in Ann Arbor, and reservation information can be found on the enclosed Schedule of Events. Since this is a football weekend and it's also Parents Weekend, rooms in Ann Arbor will be very scarce, so if you wait more than a few days, it may be too late to find a room in Ann Arbor.

A block of tickets for Saturday's football game with Purdue has also been reserved and information on how to order them can also be found on the schedule. The cost is \$47 per ticket, and because we must pay the Athletic Dept. by June 1, the **deadline for payment is May 23.** A Sigma Alumni Tailgate party at the stadium grounds will precede the game.

The weekend will conclude with a Reception and Banquet at Barton Hills Country Club in Ann Arbor, starting at 6:30 p.m. Details on making reservations for the Banquet are included with the enclosed Schedule. The General Fraternity will be represented by Grand High Alpha (Chairman of the Board) **Ted Grossnickle, Wabash '73** and Executive Vice President **Tom Helmbock, Evansville '68.** The University will also be represented at the banquet.

All Sigma alumni and their wives and guests are invited to attend any and all of the activities being planned. Please review the enclosed function sheet and **note the deadlines for ordering tickets and making reservations.** Accommodations to some of the activities are limited, and everything being offered will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

Alumni are encouraged to contact other alumni by phone, mail or e-mail to promote this significant milestone in Sigma's history. In the process, we also hope to locate some of our missing brothers. **See you all on Oct. 25, 2003 back in Ann Arbor for a great weekend!**

ALUMNI EVENTS

JUNE 2003

U OF M CLUB OF GOLDEN GATE

San Francisco Giants vs. Detroit Tigers

1:05 p.m., Sun., June 8, 2003

Pacific Bell Park, San Francisco, Calif.

GREAT AMERICAN BRASS BAND FESTIVAL

June 14, 2003

Danville, Ky.

Club members meet at the Copp's for a potluck before walking to the Saturday evening concert of the Great American Brass Band Festival on the Centre College campus.

To register or for more information e-mail gghouse@qx.net or call (859) 236-3080.

SEPTEMBER 2003

OREGON FOOTBALL TOUR AND TAILGATE

Sep. 20, 2003

Eugene, Oregon

Join fellow alumni and Michigan fans in Eugene, Ore., as the mighty Maize and Blue take on the Ducks of Oregon in a classic clash between the Big Ten and Pac 10.

Go to www.umalumni.com for more information or to register.

REMINDER

May 7 is the deadline to order 2003 season football tickets. All orders must be in by 5 p.m., EST. Go to www.umich.edu/~umalumni/events-athletics/football-Saturdays.html for more information.

HIGH ALPHA

By Anthony Sassi, High Alpha S1818

Dear Brothers,

First, allow me to introduce myself; my name is Anthony Sassi and I hail from the state of Nevada. I am a third year history major, minoring in German. I became an associate member of Sigma Zeta in February 2001, was initiated in May of the same year, and have served the chapter as house manager, High Kappa, High Iota, High Phi, and currently serve as High Alpha. I am very proud of this chapter and its traditions, and I am thankful for my opportunities to serve it.

The chapter and its members have come a long way; we have worked very hard to achieve our goals and foster the ideals for which Lambda Chi Alpha stands. Since our charter was reinstated at the 49th General Assembly in Denver this summer, it is true that we have had some ups and downs. Early in the fall of 2002 we had some risk management issues and placed ourselves on Stage 2 probation. However, the chapter rallied very quickly; we revamped our risk management program and by the end of the term met the probationary requirements put forth by Lambda Chi Alpha headquarters. We petitioned for our return to good standing with the General Fraternity in February, and our petition was accepted in short order. I am very proud of our men and their efforts.

We have also been hard at work on our recruitment program. Fraternity recruitment numbers at the University of Michigan have been low these past few semesters, and Sigma Zeta has not been an exception. We too fell into the rut of opening our doors and expecting quality prospective members to simply walk in. Thanks to the help of Brother **Stephane Schafeidel**, the current coordinator of Expansion and Recruitment for Lambda Chi Alpha, we are now instituting a recruitment plan that will allow us to set ourselves apart from other fraternities on campus. Sigma Zeta owes Brother Schafeidel many thanks.

With housing, we are excited to be moving to a new house at 800 Oxford Road. Our doors are always open to all of our brothers who wish to drop in.

In the area of academics, our chapter has made me very proud. The University of Michigan Interfraternity Council – the governing body of the campus' social fraternities – recently released the fall 2002 grade point averages of all 28 fraternities. As one would expect, Sigma Zeta of Lambda Chi Alpha placed in the top 10 with a combined GPA of 3.24, a GPA that also exceeded the all-Greek average, all-Greek men's average, all-men's average, and all-campus average. I expect our academic excellence to continue in the semesters to come.

Also, on behalf of the chapter I would like to offer my gratitude to one of Sigma Zeta's most prestigious alumni: **George Spasyk, S556**. Brother Spasyk continues to be a key figure in the success of our chapter. He has offered aid in and advice on all areas of chapter operations, and we would not be enjoying the continued success of the chapter without his efforts. He was fundamental to organizing the speakers that were required of our probation, he facilitated Brother Schafeidel's visit to Sigma Zeta, he has always put in a good word for our chapter and made sure that Sigma Zeta's best interests were in mind at headquarters, and, most importantly, he has offered his support and guidance to the chapter and to me personally throughout my term as president. Sigma Zeta sends out its sincerest thanks to Brother Spasyk.

In closing, I am very excited for the future of our chapter. It is my goal that this year will see our return to prominence within the General Fraternity, our return to our original chapter house, and our continued representation of the ideals of Lambda Chi Alpha.

Make sure to check out: www.umich.edu/~lxa

SIGMA ZETA OFFICERS

<i>PRESIDENT</i> Anthony Sassi	<i>RECRUITMENT CHAIRMAN</i> Thomas Knowlton
<i>VICE PRESIDENT</i> Brian Lau	<i>RITUALIST</i> Nathan Whetsell
<i>PHILANTHROPY CHAIRMAN</i> Justin Nematzadeh	<i>SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRMAN</i> Nicholas Ferreira
<i>SECRETARY</i> Nathan Whetsell	<i>SOCIAL CHAIRMAN</i> Matthew Martin
<i>TREASURER</i> Richard Shuma	<i>ALUMNI RELATIONS CHAIRMAN</i> Christian Knudson
<i>RISK MANAGER</i> Matthew Martin	<i>ALUMNI ADVISOR</i> Jefferson Williams
<i>FRATERNITY EDUCATOR</i> Christopher Demeniuk	

2003 BROTHERS

Christopher Demeniuk S1816 demeniuk@umich.edu	Matthew Martin S1824 mtmartin@umich.edu
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MEDICINE, SCIENCE, ENGINEERING...AND FRATERNITY

By Steve Jonas S1805

"Why join a fraternity?"

It is a question that I would imagine seems fairly obvious to anyone reading this newsletter, but has not been completely clear to the interviewers and to the admissions committees of the graduate schools to which I am currently applying. How does a fraternity experience aid an aspiring medical doctor and research physician?

Over the past three months of slogging through the medical school application process, I had the privilege of visiting several prestigious institutions. Medical school interviewers will ask a combination of the most probing and notably odd questions. It is an experience that clearly draws analogies to the never-ending and ever-repeating conversations of fraternity rush. Of course there are always the standard questions where they ask, "So, Steve, why do you want to be a doctor?" as they probe my academic and clinical interests. But more often than not the topic of my fraternity involvement is brought up, but almost inevitably as a question that must be addressed to assuage the interviewers' fears that Lambda Chi Alpha has simply contributed to a gradual loss of brain cells.

In what little space that I have left, I will attempt to provide a more succinct answer to this question than my traditional interview response. Being a member of a fraternity is an opportunity for an undergraduate to learn and grow. It is the chance to meet a diverse group of people both within and outside the university community, to build lifelong friendships, and to make a university of the huge scale of our *alma mater* slightly smaller and more manageable. In some sense, the fraternity system assists those of us who choose to join a Greek house to find our Darwinian niche in the thriving academic ecosystem of Ann Arbor. However, beyond the goals of scholarship, patriotism, and the other pillars of success that the fraternity covets – and more to the point than some of these metaphors – what we have really accomplished is the start of a family. Like any family, we have had our ups and downs over the past couple of years. Those of you who regularly speak with Lambda Chi Alpha Headquarters must be all too aware of these past struggles as well as the current movement to return to our house at 1601 Washtenaw.

In the end, this concept of building a family is how I respond to my interviewers. In working toward the reinstatement of our charter, those of us who were a part of building this latest incarnation of Sigma Zeta have borrowed memories from the Lambda Chi Alpha of yesteryear and started some traditions of our own. All of us who have been a part of this wonderful journey have left a part of ourselves in Ann Arbor, to which I hope we will always be able to return when time, fate, or simply a reunion beckons us back. It is admittedly possible that some of you may be reading a *Sigman* for the first time, or may not have known that Sigma Zeta of Lambda Chi Alpha has returned to Michigan and has in fact been around for quite a while. If you have been away from the Sigma Zeta family for some time or have been curious about how your fraternity has returned to the University of Michigan, let me be one of the first to invite you to check out the brotherhood that we have built, see what we have accomplished thus far, and help us to reach where we want to be in the future.



(Left to Right): Sigma's George Spasyk, Executive Vice President Emeritus; Grand High Alpha and Chairman of the Board Ted Grossnickle; Social Chairman Matt Martin, Chapter President Tony Sassi and Executive Vice President Tom Helmbock meet at Regional Leadership Conference in February.

CHAPTER TEAMS GIVE BACK TO COMMUNITY

By Brian Lau S1825 and Justin Nematzadeh S1826

It is the duty of every brother of Lambda Chi Alpha to give his time and energy to his community.

To this end, Sigma Zeta prioritizes philanthropy as an integral part of chapter programming. Last year, our chapter put forth the most man-hours of community service of any fraternity. We've lead effective community service events, and safely performed fundraisers that actively engaged the local Ann Arbor community. In April 2002, Sigma Zeta was appropriately recognized by the University of Michigan Interfraternity Council for Excellence in Community Service. This year, my brothers met the challenge to exceed our philanthropy efforts of previous years. This year's efforts consisted of five major philanthropic events: the Third Annual Watermelon Bust, the North American Food Drive, the O Zone House Valentine's Day Card Exchange, the Teeter-Totter-A-Thon, and K-Grams' Kids' Fair.

The Watermelon Bust can be best described as a watermelon-based Olympics. This year, nine sororities – Alpha Gamma Delta, Alpha Phi, Delta Delta Delta, Delta Gamma, Gamma Phi Beta, Kappa Kappa Gamma, Phi Sigma Rho, Pi Beta Phi, and Sigma Delta Tau – competed in events like the Seed Spitting Contest, the Greased Melon Relay, and the indispensable Watermelon Eating Contest. Sisters from each sorority were asked to donate at least one can of food to participate. This event, combined with the North American Food Drive, helped us to operate learning tables. We headed two tables; one with the service group, "Random Acts of Kindness," the other with Alpha Delta Pi Sorority. We created fun and intuitive trivia questions for the students.

"The ultimate continuing strength of a college fraternity chapter rests with its alumni members. The chapter's undergraduates come and go, its leaders change, its programs are modified, and its home replaced, but its alumni maintain a life-long association that ends only with death. As each generation dies, a new one matures to provide the continuity that perpetuates the chapter. Alumni members are the keepers of the tradition, preferred stockholders in the enterprise, the mark of its accomplishment."

-Stewart S. Howe 1958

Alumni News

George W. Spasyk '49
(9205 Selkirk Ct., Indianapolis, IN 46260-1222; gspasyk49@aol.com) Retired in 1990 as executive vice president of Lambda Chi Alpha International Fraternity after 40 years on the staff.

John P. Whaite '50
(417 Dutch Mill Dr., Flushing, MI 48433-2122) Graduated from U of M in 1950. During his stay, he joined Lambda Chi Alpha and spent three years at the house on Washtenaw. He met his wife while at Michigan; She was a Chi Omega. They have been married 52 years. He roomed with **Claude Morehouse '49** and **Ray Reece '48**. Even after these 50 years, they still get together and socialize at each others homes or take trips together. Also they attend the reunions put on by **Gary Hicks '51**. John says it's always nice to see, again, those brothers who lived in the house when he did. John retired from 3M in 1989 where he was an account executive after 39 1/2 years of service. He and his wife enjoy traveling, golf, and also spend three months at Corpus Christi, Texas. He's glad to see that the brothers at the house are heading the fraternity in the right direction.

Richard J. Ferrara '52
(20 Sailfish Dr., Palm Coast, FL 32137-1409) Have attended the reunions of the classes 1948-1954 over the last decades. In August 2000 went on a safari to Kenya, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. Wife (Valerie) and I love to travel. We have two children and two grandchildren. We moved into our new home last July after living 34 years in Palm Beach Co., Fla. Keep plugging for your goal of 40 members.

Robert R. Rickert '58
(25 Kenilworth Dr., Short Hills, NJ 07078-1606) Robert has been practicing medicine in New Jersey since 1970, after medical school at John Hopkins and residency at Yale. He is chairman of the Dept. of Pathology at Saint Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston, N.J. He was honored by the College of American Pathologists as "2001 Pathologist of the Year," and as "Distinguished Physician" by The American Cancer Society, Eastern Division. Robert and his wife Sonja have three daughters and four grandchildren. Their youngest daughter was just engaged to a Michigan alumnus. Go Blue!

Robert B. Johnson '58
(17 Glen Oaks, Summit, NJ 07901-2427) Honored by Computer World as one of the top 100 IT Professionals for 2002.

Keith Jones McKenna '60
(13463 Lakeshore, Fenton, MI 48430-1023; keithbevmckenna@cs.com) I retired in August 2000 after 32 years with GM and a previous seven years with TRW Systems Group. We have four children, two of whom are U of M grads.

John Andrew Eisele '66
(8815 E. Bear Creek Dr., Tucson, AZ 85749-9648) Left the computer business after 33 1/2 years and started The Green Choice Inc. in January 2000, marketing energy efficient and sustainable building products for residential and commercial construction. Have delightful 1 1/2-year-old granddaughter.

Thomas J. Gaffney '68
(P.O. Box 596255, Fort Gratiot, MI 48059-6255; gaffburg@hotmail.com) Grandson Thomas William Gaffney, born July 17, 2000, son of Thomas Jay and Heather (Parsons) Gaffney. Like to hear about **Robert Stevens '67**, **Larry Williams '67**, and **Ray De Palma '68**. Who was the cook for tears with the great breakfast rolls? Think Willie was her husband.

Peter Marx '80
(49 Florence Dr., Florham Park, NJ 07932; paiof8s@aol.com) Just closed in "Annie Get Your Gun" after three years on Broadway. Recently appeared again on "Law and Order," "L&O Special Victims Unit," and "Star Trek: Voyager." Busy with a voice over career in NY. I would love to hear from **Jack Withrow '79** and **Chris Thompson '79**. **Rob Fechtner '79** is my ophthalmologist!

Robert M. Swiller '81
(225 S. 6th St., #4400, Minneapolis, MN 55402) Still see **Jim Lefkowitz '80** all the time. He is an agent for the stars of Los Angeles.

Louis Theros '85
(333 Cloverly Road, Grosse Pointe, MI 48236; ltheros@aol.com) Louie is married to Patti and has two sons, Jonathan, 4, and Evan, 2. Recently elected to the Grosse Pointe Farms City Council. Louie keeps in touch with brothers **Dan Sheridan '86**, **Jim Strong '87**, **Tim Monahan '87**, and many others. Louie is a member at Dickinson Wright Specializing in Labor and Employment Law.

William F. Brinkerhoff '87
(1011 Lincoln Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48104; wbrinkerhoff@mindspring.com) My wife, Kathy, and I moved back to Ann Harbor last spring after 12 years in New Jersey. Our kids, Amelia, 8; Ben, 6 and Will, 2, love Ann Harbor. We're busy renovating a 1920 barn porch home.

Ross Melin Lacy '90
(1035 Fiske St., Pacific Palisades, CA 90272; ross@rosslacycasting.com) Ross and his wife, Monica, moved to a new house and welcomed the arrival of their first child, an 8 lb., 6oz., boy named Caden.

Joseph A. Schulz '92
(847 Asa Gray Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48105-2566) Married in 1992. We have two children, Ryan, 4, and Alec, 18 months. Still living in Ann Arbor and loving it!

Since our last publication we have learned of the deaths of

Mark W. Alger '33 (1/22/02)
David M. Merriman '35
(12/01/02)
Frank Alvin Stocking '52
(2/18/01)
William T. Bolduc '68 (4/01)

Lambda Chi Alpha mourns their passing and extends its 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, photographs and contributions are always welcome and should be either sent in the enclosed envelope or mailed to:
Lambda Chi Alpha Foundation, Inc., Alumni Records Office, P.O. Box 2019, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-2019.