

# THE SIGMAN

LAMBDA CHI ALPHA ♦ SIGMA ZETA  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

APRIL 2004

## SIGMA ENTERS NEW ERA – RECLAIMS 1601 WASHTENAW

A new chapter in the life of Sigma Zeta at the University of Michigan will begin on Aug. 1, 2004, as the undergraduate members will reoccupy the familiar home of the chapter at 1601 Washtenaw Avenue in Ann Arbor. Built in 1926, the chapter occupied the house until World War II, when the university took it over to house naval officer candidates and then turned it over to the Ann Arbor chapter of the American Red Cross, which used the house as volunteer headquarters for its wartime efforts.

With most of the active members in the military, Sigma was one of the few chapters of the Fraternity to remain active during the war. An apartment was rented above Follett's Book Store on State Street, and the chapter was able to stay alive by recruiting and initiating a number of military trainees.

Beginning in the fall of 1946, the men of Sigma again occupied 1601 continuously for nearly 50 years, until the Grand High Zeta withdrew the charter from 1994 to 1998, for risk management violations. Upon closing the chapter, title to the property was transferred from the local house corporation to the General Fraternity, and it has been managed by a subsidiary of the Fraternity, Lambda Chi Alpha Properties Inc. (LCAP). During the chapter's recolonization period, and since its rechartering in 2002, the members have been living in houses leased from other Greek groups. In the early

1990s, the alumni undertook a complete rebuilding of the chapter house at a cost of more than \$1 million.

With the chapter house and its finances now being professionally managed by LCAP, the role of alumni in the reconstituted chapter alumni organization will take on a very different look. The undergraduate members will rent their living quarters from LCAP at rates competitive with other housing units at the university and will use the chapter house for their normal functions and activities.

Alumni will be asked to serve as a corps of advisers and mentors for the undergraduate chapter, and to provide the furnishings for the chapter house. On Feb. 29, a group of 12 alumni met with the undergraduates and representatives of LCAP to work out the lease arrangements on the chapter house, and to discuss the future role of alumni. Among those involved were House Corporation President **George Friess '57, Dick Good '57, Andy Knowlton '74, Tony Ling '00, Jamie Quackenbush '70, Brad Quinn '01, George Pomey '65, Allen Raymond '45, George Spasyk '49, Ted Winkel '66, Farage Yusupov '00** and Dr. Matt Caestino, Rhode Island '94. These brothers agreed to serve as the initial committee and to recruit other alumni volunteers to a future meeting to further develop the alumni program. The future of Sigma is bright, and exciting things are in store for everyone involved.

### A CALL TO SERVICE

Brothers of Lambda Chi Alpha who may be interested in serving on a panel to develop a new alumni program for Sigma Zeta and working with the undergraduate chapter at Michigan are invited to an organizational meeting to be held at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 16, 2004, in the Anderson-D Room of the Michigan Union in Ann Arbor.

The active chapter will be in attendance to work with us. Plans will also be made for the August reopening of 1601 Washtenaw, for the furnishing of the chapter house and for some alumni activities and publications during the coming year. Please RSVP to George Spasyk via e-mail at [gspasyk49@aol.com](mailto:gspasyk49@aol.com) or by mail at: 9205 Selkirk Ct., Indianapolis, IN 46260. You may also find Sigma information on the chapter's Web site: [www.umich.edu/~lxa](http://www.umich.edu/~lxa).



Sigma at Michigan Celebrates 90th Anniversary, Return of Charter. *Details Page 3*

*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 Relations Office, P.O. Box 2019, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-2019.



## SIGMA ZETA OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

Stephen Marin '06  
Grand Ledge, Mich.

### VICE PRESIDENT

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Fennville, Mich.

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE HIGH ALPHA

Stephen Marin, High Alpha, Sigma 1829

As another school year at the University of Michigan comes to a close, many elements of a great Chapter are beginning to emerge at Sigma, and the future is once again looking very bright. One of the most important facets of a great Chapter is membership recruitment, and we are extremely proud of our three wonderful new members, all freshmen.

James Crabtree is from Grand Ledge, Mich., which also happens to be my hometown. He is planning on studying aeronautical engineering. James is an especially kind person who I expect will lead by example and kindness in the coming years.

Ethan Rein, who is my little brother, is also a caring person. He is from Dearborn Heights, Mich., and is studying mathematics to be an actuary. Ethan is a level-headed young man who is extremely capable of seeing through a problem and solving it in a timely fashion.

Brian McCorkle is also another kind person, and he is from the Battle Creek, Mich., area. Brian is a creative young man who can sing and play several musical instruments, including electric guitar, bass guitar and piano. He is considering the pursuit of a performing arts technologies major, but is, at this point, currently undeclared. Brian's creativity will add to Lambda Chi Alpha's offering of a unique and rewarding experience.

Another important aspect, and one of the four pillars of Lambda Chi Alpha that our Chapter puts a great deal of effort into, is scholarship. With a variety of majors ranging from History to English and many different forms of engineering, the Chapter has an educational background that is broad and diverse. In fact, many of the brothers have dual majors in various disciplines, including mathematics, performing arts technologies, electrical engineering, economics, music engineering, English and nuclear engineering.

The Sigma Chapter of Lambda Chi Alpha has traditionally been involved in the community and a number of philanthropies. Because society has been so gracious in allowing us the privileges we enjoy, we are required, in my view, to give back as much as we can to those who are not as fortunate as we are. This

fall, Sigma completed the fourth annual Watermelon Bust with help from six sororities on campus. With their assistance, we were able to raise well over 8,000 pounds of food (that's four tons of food!) for local families and food gatherers. Also, before the end of the semester we will be having our annual Teeter-Totter-A-Thon on the Diag. Our goal for this event will be to raise \$500 for diabetes research.

The Brothers of Sigma would also like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to the alumni and their families who attended the 90th anniversary activities and rechartering banquet, and to all of the alumni who could not attend but have still contributed to the greatness of Sigma. Thank you for your generous support, including all the kind words, the financial support, your valuable time and all the great stories that you've shared with us. Seeing how much Lambda Chi Alpha has meant to all of you only deepens our resolve in furthering the legacy of Sigma.

To further that very same thought, as of next school year the chapter will be moving back to 1601 Washtenaw, and the excitement is mounting to unbelievable levels. No dates are set, but sometime in September we will be organizing a ceremony in appreciation of everything the alumni have done for us. There will be an unveiling of our Greek letters on the house and an opening the doors to all the alumni once again. The house at 1601 is where the alumni have their memories and they deserve to have the house open for them when they want to visit.

As the High Alpha, I see many great things happening in this Chapter, but the greatest of all is the enthusiastic attitude of the brothers. Sigma has struggled for a while since recolonizing in 1998, but we are once again closing in on what a Chapter should be. The brothers are thankful for the alumni support and ask for it to continue. Over a 90-year period, the alumni of Sigma have built a firm foundation, and it is now the responsibility (and privilege) of the active members to build on that foundation. We again thank all of you and we vow to never stop working for the betterment of Lambda Chi Alpha!



# SIGMA AT MICHIGAN CELEBRATES 90TH ANNIVERSARY, RETURN OF CHARTER

Sigma celebrated its 90th year at the University of Michigan on Oct. 24-26, 2003, with a full weekend of activities and more than 250 brothers, wives, children, parents and friends in attendance. The occasion also marked the formal return of the charter to Sigma. Following an inactive period from 1994 to 1998, followed by a recolonization effort, on Aug. 3, 2002, the General Assembly in Denver officially approved the return of the chapter to good standing.

A complete story of the reunion weekend was published in the March issue of *The Cross & Crescent*. If you missed that article

and would like a copy, please contact George Spasyk by e-mail at [gspasyk49@aol.com](mailto:gspasyk49@aol.com), or by mail at 9205 Selkirk Ct., Indianapolis, IN 46260.

Alumni attending the reunion came to Ann Arbor not only from within the borders of Michigan, but also from Illinois, New Jersey, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Washington, Connecticut, Virginia, California, Florida, Texas, Tennessee, Arizona, New York and Washington, D.C. Brothers in attendance for the weekend included:

1940s: Allen Raymond, Bob Young, George Spasyk	Stokoe, Frank Lude, Mike Mason, Larry Grace, Mike Vernick, Van Tillotson	Bill Brinkerhoff, Rick Bolander, John Rutledge, Bob Culver, Dave Juneau
1950s: Gary Hicks, Neil Taylor, George Friess, Len Lybarger, Mark McQuiggan, Hal Cruger, Joe St. Cyr, Fred Shefler, George Fomin, Dick Good, George Grove, Ralph Guy, Tom Gougeon	1970s: Bill Snell, Gary Kreps, Dave Jarvis, Bob Stead, Gary Galopin, Andy Knowlton, Kurt Kimball, Roger Whitaker, Norm Allen, Mark Westrate, Todd Beel, Joel Ross, Ken Garman, Bob Hamill, Todd Petersen, Ralph Moxley, George Isaac, Dick Lovernick, Chuck Cole, Bruce Koepfgen, Paul Malloure, Jeff Williams (Tennessee)	1990s: Tyler Staelin, Matt Caestino (Rhode Island)
1960s: Bill Hall, Peter Vlisides, Bill Mitchell, Paul Robertson, Gerry Montry, George Pomey, Frank Grace, Kip Selmeier, Ron Russell, Joe Blair, Ted Winkel, Bob Kidder, Jim Nette, Mark Stuart, Ken	1980s: Mark Schaefer, John Cunningham,	2000s: Anthony Sassi, Charles Chen, Goyal Kush, Vikram Vaishya, Matt Schloss, Aaron Niemiec, Farage Yusupov, Nate Whetsell, Justin Nematzadeh, Steve Marin, Nick Ferreira, Scott Nielsen, Chris Demeniuk, Matt Martin, Tommy Knowlton, Ben Hoff, Brian Jerred, Brad Quinn, Tony Ling

Sigma undergraduates were the guests of the alumni at the tailgate party and the banquet through contributions from those in attendance, and among the contributors were several alumni who could not

be in Ann Arbor for the festivities: **Bill Ruzicka '44, F.X. Nutto '45, Warren Heller '47, Ray Scott '47, Bob Metzger '59, John Walper '59, Bill Schepers '60 Dick Van House '67 and Ted Leh '81.**



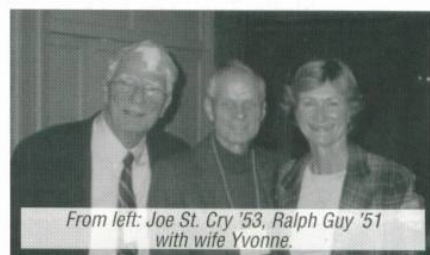
Executive Vice President Tom Helmbock (right) presents the original Sigma Charter to High Alpha Tony Sassi.



From left: Sigma's Executive Vice President Emeritus George Spasyk, Grand High Alpha Ted Grossnickle, Executive Vice President Tom Helmbock.



Van Tillotson '66



From left: Joe St. Cry '53, Ralph Guy '51 with wife Yvonne.



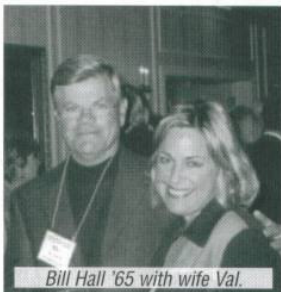
From left: Gary Kreps '73, Bruce Koepfgen '74, Chuck Cole '73, George Isaac '75.



Earliest Initiate at 90th Anniversary: Allen Raymond '54 came from Connecticut with wife Barbara.



Roger Whitaker '73 with wife Sue.



Bill Hall '65 with wife Val.



From left: John Cunningham '82 with wife Patty, Adele and Dick Good '57, Brian Jerred '04.



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