

THE SIGMAN

LAMBDA CHI ALPHA • SIGMA ZETA
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

JULY 2006

Founders Day Brings Warm Memories

by Doug Sayranian '09

Armed with a hammer and nails, George Spasyk set out on a mission...to find out "how many Lambda Chis does it take to hang a picture?" As it turned out, at least half the Brothers who attended Founders Day on Sunday, March 26, for the simple reason that everyone wanted to be a part of the last remaining job to complete the marvelous transformation of the "Big Living Room" into a truly magnificent "living" room.

Introductions over, pictures hung, house tours completed, some 60 alumni, undergraduates and friends proceeded to the dining room, tables decked out with purple, green and gold tablecloths, to enjoy a great Honey Baked Ham luncheon hosted by the Chapter. Alumni present included **Bill Ruzicka '44, George Spasyk '49, George Friess '57, George Pomey '65, Jim Peggs '70, Mike Farrell '70, Dave Arnold '71, Jim Fortune '75, Tim Cleary '78, Tony Ling '00, Brad Quinn '01, visiting Brothers Dave Sarris and Craig Solgen, Ferris State '89, B.J. Walraven, Kettering '97,** and our beloved **Sue Quackenbush**, wife of our late High Pi, Jamie.

Following lunch, our guests offered a variety of words, some humorous, some challenging, some encouraging, all heartfelt. Sue Quackenbush gave a touching account of how much the Lambda Chis' support has meant to her. She spoke of Jamie's deep love of Lambda Chi Alpha and how great it was to see that the renewed Chapter was well on its way to restoring the glory of years past. Bill Ruzicka, the eldest brother present, regaled us with stories of some of the mischief he and his contemporaries of the early 1940s engaged in.

The infamous Georges, Pomey, Friess and Spasyk, spoke of Sigma's recent past and present -- the support of our alumni is the reason we are here today. The enthusiasm at the Founders Day celebration reveals a bright future. "What we need now," Spasyk said, "is for you to go out and spread the good word."

Founders Day 2006



From left: Ethan Rein, Sue Quackenbush, Dave Arnold, Jim Peggs, Chris VanDeusen, Ryan Black and Byron Hauck.



Ethan Pickering, Dave Sarris and Andrew Daar.



← Jim Peggs and Mike Farrell
George Friess, Bill Ruzicka and George Spasyk →



A Message From the High Alpha

by Mariano Lowenstern '08



It is a great honor to write to my Sigma Brothers for this edition of *The Sigman*. I had the pleasure of meeting many of you at Founders Day and hearing some of the most amazing personal stories about Lambda Chi Alpha. I feel that every time I meet brothers, alumni and undergraduate alike, my love for this Fraternity grows stronger.

First, let me introduce myself. I am Mariano Eduardo Lowenstern, but most call me Mario. My parents are Alberto Mario Lowenstern and Susana Beatriz DePorra. I was born in Buenos Aires Argentina in 1986 and am pursuing a degree in Physics and Astronomy. Following my initiation in December 2004, I was elected High Beta, and I have just finished my first semester as High Alpha.

For this article, I would like to discuss the meaning of brotherhood. I sometimes find it difficult to explain to my father, who still lives in my native Argentina, why I call all of you brothers. It is difficult to find the words to express this bond. In Argentina there are no fraternities and my father, being skeptical, feels that I had somehow joined an "Animal House." I had tried many times to explain to him why I feel you are my brothers, but it has been to no avail until now.

While reading over the Creed of Lambda Chi Alpha during pre-initiation week, I realized that it is in this great Fraternity that we find a definition of true brotherhood. The Creed, in a few sentences, summarizes what we stand for: service to all, and self-sacrifice in the pursuit of our ideals.

I find the loyalty and commitment of so many of our alumni as an example of true brotherhood that the undergraduates should strive for. And I would encourage everyone to read over the Creed from time to time; it will be a constant reminder of what our Fraternity stands for:

We believe in Lambda Chi Alpha, and its traditions, principles and ideals. The crescent is our symbol; pure, high, ever growing, and the cross is our guide; denoting service, sacrifice, and even suffering and humiliation before the world, bravely endured if need be, in following that ideal.

May we have faith in Lambda Chi Alpha and passion for its welfare. May we have hope for the future of Lambda Chi Alpha and strength to fight for its teachings. May we have pure hearts, that we may approach the ideal of perfect brotherly love.

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Spring Break - 2006

By Chris VanDeusen, '08

This year for Spring Break, five Sigmen took a 2,000 mile 8-day journey from Feb. 24 to Mar. 3 (yes, Brothers, Michigan has its Spring Break in the middle of winter). Brothers **Ethan Rein**, **Sean Ruwart**, **Andrew Turckes**, **Gabe Johnson** and **Chris VanDeusen** took part in this odyssey that started in Ann Arbor and ended up in Boston, by way of Canada, including stops at seven Lambda Chi Alpha chapters and numerous historic sites.

The first stop on the journey was at the chapter at Kettering University in Flint where we enjoyed watching an exemplification of the Ritual. The next morning we headed east to Canada. After a mellow visit with the Brothers at Western Ontario University in London, Ontario, our overnight stop was at the University of Toronto, where the Brothers of Lambda Chi Alpha's first Canadian chapter hosted us in royal fashion. After passing through Niagara Falls into New York State, we moved on to Ithaca, home of the chapter at Cornell University, "high above Cayuga's waters." We drove all the next day, making brief stops at the chapter at Rensselaer Poly in Troy, New York, and the world-famous Norman Rockwell Museum in historic Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

That evening, we arrived at our Spring Break destination, the home of Dr. Matt Caestino, Rhode Island '96, in Hudson, New Hampshire. "Stino", as he is known to the Brothers, lived with the chapter in Ann Arbor while he worked on his medical residency and developed a lasting friendship with the Sigma Brothers. Upon leaving last Summer, he invited us to visit him in his new home and was generous enough to feed us and put up with our antics for a few days.

The next day we traveled to Boston where we visited the MIT chapter and the birthplace of Lambda Chi Alpha, Alpha Zeta at Boston University. The following day was spent at a ski lodge in Northern New Hampshire. We began our 2-day trek home the next day, March 2, and after a memorable night at the Cornell house in Ithaca, pulled into Ann Arbor on Friday with a storehouse of fraternal memories.



On the balcony of the MIT house: **Chris VanDeusen**, **Ethan Rein**, **Sean Ruwart**, **Andrew Turckes**, **Gabe Johnson**.

Sigma Roster Grows

By Ethan Rein '07

With the fourth initiation held at 1601 since the reoccupation of the Chapter House in 2004, Sigma's membership roll grew to 1,856. Undergraduates **Andrew Daar '08** of Indian Head, Illinois, **Gabe Johnson '09** of Chassell, Michigan, **Rich Moreno '08** of Cleveland, Ohio and **Doug Sayranian '09** of Grand Haven, Michigan were initiated on March 24, 2006 and the day before, **Chris Marin**, father of past High Alpha **Steve Marin '06**, was initiated as an honorary member.

Attending the initiations were alumni **George Spasyk '49**, **Tony Ling '00**, **Brad Quinn '01** and **Nate Whetsell '05**; several brothers from Kettering University, and **A.J. Marin**, **Michigan State '08**, brother of Steve and son of Chris and currently serving as High Alpha at Gamma-Omicron.

A graduate of Alma College, Chris Marin has been very supportive of Lambda Chi Alpha for the past four years. He is currently Vice President of Human Resources at Sioux Valley Hospital in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Alumni interested in attending the Fall 2006 initiation, which will be held shortly after Thanksgiving, should contact Chapter Ritualist Ethan Rein at erein@umich.edu.

Order of Omega Inducts Two Sigmen



The Order of Omega, a national honor society for outstanding Greek leaders, tapped Past High Alpha **Steve Marin '06** (at right in

photo) and current High Phi **Ethan Rein '07** for membership in the University of Michigan chapter on January 19, 2006. Steve and Ethan join recent Sigma alumni **Nate Whetsell '05** and **Steve Jonas '01** as members of the Order which has chapters at more than 300 campuses.

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 Editor **Doug Sayranian '09**, **Mariano Lowenstern '08**, **Ethan Rein '07**, **Chris VanDeusen '08** and **George Spasyk '49**.

Address changes, news items, photographs and contributions are always welcome and may be sent either in the enclosed envelope or mailed to:

Lambda Chi Alpha - Michigan
100 S. Atkinson Rd.-#116, PMB 382
Grayslake, IL 60030-7819

SIGMEN VISIT ΣAE HEADQUARTERS AND ALUMNI IN EVANSTON

When **George Spasyk** was Executive Vice President of Lambda Chi Alpha, he worked closely with the chief executives of all fraternities and made lasting friendships with many of them. This was manifest last Fall, when a group of Sigma brothers went to the Northwestern game in Evanston, Illinois, home of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Headquarters. Making the trip from Ann Arbor were High Alpha **Steve Marin '06** and High Kappa **Ethan Rein '07**, who were joined there by George and by past High Alpha **Nate Whetsell '05**, who was at Northwestern on a graduate scholarship.

On the Saturday afternoon of the night game, while ensconced in the historic Orrington Hotel, the group visited the impressive headquarters of ΣAE, known as The Levere Memorial Temple, virtually across the street from the Northwestern campus. They were greeted there by Executive Director Dr. Tom Goodale, who gave up part of his Saturday afternoon to welcome us to the home of ΣAE. We were then treated to a two-hour tour of the vast facility by former ΣAE Executive Director Ken Tracey. Among the interfraternity features of the Temple are a meeting room with all of the fraternity and sorority coats of arms beautifully painted on the ceilings, and an extensive library containing bound volumes of all the fraternity and sorority magazines, including our own Cross and Crescent.

Before the game, we were hosted to a fabulous tailgate party at the Evanston home of past High Alpha **Eric Haab '86** and his delightful family, and were joined there by another past High Alpha, **Bruce Koepfgen '74**, who lives in nearby Winnetka. The Haab family then joined us at the football game, where the Wolverines creamed Northwestern.



George Spasyk, Tom Goodale, Steve Marin, Nate Whetsell, Ethan Rein and Ken Tracey at SAE headquarters.



Steve Marin, Eric Haab, George Spasyk, Nate Whetsell and Ethan Rein at Eric's home.



Nate Whetsell, Steve Marin, Ethan Rein and George Spasyk at Northwestern game.



Kim, Alex, Grace and Eric Haab at Northwestern game.

NEXT ALUMNI EVENTS

INAUGURAL SIGMA GOLF OUTING - See next column

3rd ANNUAL ALUMNI-ACTIVE WORK DAY

On Saturday, August 26, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., alumni will join the actives for an all-day work session to prepare 1601 for Fall occupancy. Bring work clothes and tools. Contact Ethan Pickering: epick@umich.edu

HOMECOMING BRUNCH - 2006

Saturday, October 28 - 9:30 a.m.
1601 Washtenaw - Ann Arbor
Michigan vs. Northwestern
at The Big House

YOUR INVITATION TO THE INAUGURAL SIGMA GOLF OUTING SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 2006

Golf Outing - U of M Golf Course (Stadium Blvd. & Main)
First Tee Time - 11:00 a.m.
Dinner at 5:30 p.m. at Paesano's (3411 Washtenaw)
Golf Costs: UM Students & M-Club Members \$38
UM Alumni \$53 Others \$63
Dinner Cost: \$30

Get in touch with your chapter contemporaries and put together a foursome, or join a foursome at the course.

Make check payable to **GEORGE POMEY**. Mail check with a note indicating names of golfers and number of dinners for your party and mail to:
George Pomey, 2460 Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Questions? Call George at 734-973-2044 or email him at GEORGE@GEORGEPOMEY.com.

DON'T DELAY: Half of our 40 Tee times are already taken!

CHAPTER RECEIVES BADGE OF SIGMA 24 Gift To Sigma Will Be High Alpha Badge

Ron Holland, University of Alberta '70, a loyal Lambda Chi whose decades-long service to his chapter and to the General Fraternity earned him the Fraternity's highest honor, the Order of Merit, happens to be an old friend of Sigma's George Spasyk and is a longtime guest of George's at his Indy 500 festivities. Ron also has one idiosyncrasy -- he cannot stay away from eBay, especially anything dealing with Lambda Chi Alpha "stuff."

On one of his surfing expeditions last Fall, he ran across a Lambda Chi badge which was engraved FZ-Σ 24. He mentioned this to George, who immediately identified the owner as Franz Zimmerli, Sigma 24, Class of 1917. But George also knew him as "Duke" Zimmerli, who was a very active alumnus and a frequent visitor to the chapter when George was an undergraduate in the late 1940s. Duke was a Detroit businessman, and served on the chapter's house corporation board for many years. He was also a colorful storyteller and kept the undergraduates spellbound with his reminiscences of hilarious events involving the women of Chi Omega, who lived on one side of the Lambda Chi house at 1511 Washtenaw, and Collegiate Sorosis, who lived on the other side. It just so happened that the bathrooms of both sororities faced the Lambda Chi house. Enough said.

Ron bought the jeweled badge (he did not disclose what his winning bid was), and purchased a Sigma guard to go with it. He presented it to High Alpha **Mariano Lowenstern** at an event at George's home during this year's Indy 500 week, with the suggestion that it be worn by the High Alpha and be handed down to each succeeding High Alpha. Mariano assured him that the Chapter would be honored with the establishment of this new tradition. Ron, who still lives in Alberta, will be the guest of the Chapter at a football game this Fall.



Mariano Lowenstern receives Sigma 24 badge from Ron Holland.

Alumni News

Francis X. (FX) Nutto '45

621 S. Jambolaya St., Anaheim, CA 92806 (714-535-7410)

fxnesq@dslextreme.com

Took my son Michael with me last October to attend a 60th reunion of the class of '45 in Ann Arbor. Looked in at the chapter house; members were friendly. The house looked nice. Among other things I keep busy by attending welding practice three nights a week. I do many little welding projects, including making stainless steel belt buckles for myself and friends. George's pitch was irresistible - enclosed check for \$1,000.

Constantine (Gus) Gianakaris '56

3124 Hillanbrook Dr., Portage, MI 49024-5666 (269-342-2171)

gianakaris@wmich.edu

Recently retired from Western Michigan University as Professor Emeritus of English and Theatre.

James Wells M.D. '59

8129 NW 20th Terrace, Oklahoma City, OK 73127

After practicing medicine and allergy since 1972 at the Oklahoma Allergy and Asthma Clinic and teaching part-time at the Univ. of Oklahoma Medical School, I am gradually retiring. My wife Mary and I have six grown children and eleven grandchildren. Life is good. Lambda Chi was an important part of my education as a young man and I have many grateful memories.

Lance Swann '60

3112 Rolling Rd., Chevy Chase, MD 20815 (301-654-1859)

lswann@csc.com

Have five children, ages 42-26, all college grads and doing well. After leaving Michigan (UofM) in 1957, joined the 101st Airborne. Graduated from Wittenberg, Masters from Columbia. Six years with IBM; six years with political appointment from Presidents Nixon and Ford; 30 years as Vice President for Government Relations with Computer Sciences Corp. Still working.

Robert Shutes '71

2349 Queens Dr., Woodbury, MN 55125 (612-845-4520) rsshutes@aol.com

I am the owner of Northland Therapy Associates, Inc. providing home care physical therapy in northern Wisconsin. Also am the captain of a charter boat on Lake Superior "Knife Island Charters." Published a book in 2003 "A Society of Pines" that has just won the National Arbor Day Foundation 2006 Media Award.

Take a look at "Society of Pines.com" on the internet.

Gregory W. Broome '73

20 Silvers Lane, Plainsboro, NJ 08536

gwbroome@aol.com

Big event...celebrating "five years cancer free" for my wife...taking her on an Alaskan cruise and a trip to L'Hermitage in St. Petersburg, Russia. She's quite a fighter and it's time to celebrate her victory. Role at American Century Investments remains challenging and rewarding, and I am in my 15th year as an adjunct faculty member at the New School in New York City (Masters Program of Human Resources Mgmt.) Life is good. All the best to Sigma!!!

Douglas V. Harroun '73

3950 SW 324th St., Federal Way, WA 98023 (253-221-1910)

dharr13177@comcast.net

I think about the guys I met and times we had regularly. I was the house manager for a year and got to fix a lot of window panes and door jambs. Great to see the house is being renovated.

Justin A. (Jay) Gerak '84

22380 N. Linden Dr., Lake Barrington, IL 60010-5916 (847-304-0853)

After Law School at Michigan I worked at McDermott Will & Emery in Chicago with **Tim Callahan '85**. I joined the Motorola Inc. Law Dept. in 1992, then moved to Sears, Roebuck & Co. to head up the legal work for Sears.com. I joined the Law Dept. of APAC Customer Services in Deerfield, Illinois in 2005. I married Mary Ambrose in 1991 and we have two children, Joe (13) and Callie (8). I still regularly see **Rob Gibson '86** and talk to **Pat "Slack" Conway '84**.

IN MEMORIAM

Chester P. (Chet) Shelly '37, died October 7, 2005 in Naples, Florida at the age of 90. Chet received his MBA at Michigan and pursued a career in accounting, retiring as a partner in the accounting firm of Ernst & Young. He made his home in Bloomfield Hills, and maintained a home in Naples, Florida during the winter months.

During his business career in Michigan, he was actively involved with Sigma's house corporation and was a frequent visitor at 1601. Chet was a generous contributor to the alumni association's annual and special fund drives, frequently making two or three contributions in a given year. His updates appeared in the pages of The Sigman often, the most recent in 2004 when he reported that he had recently won a prize

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in golf among 80 and older competitors by shooting his age - an 88! He is survived by three daughters and a sister.

Charles (Chuck) Kocsis '35, died May 30, 2006 in Royal Oak, Michigan at the age of 93. Chuck enrolled in Michigan in 1932 in the middle of the "great depression." One of fourteen children of Hungarian immigrant parents, he would need help with his college expenses. He made it the first semester with a loan from a friend and by waiting tables at his fraternity house -- Lambda Chi Alpha.

Thereafter he had no problems with school expenses, as he earned a golf scholarship for the remainder of his college career. During the next four years, Kocsis would lead the Wolverines to three Big Ten titles in golf, and NCAA titles in 1934 and '35. Their win in 1934 was the first ever outside of the Ivy League.

Individually, Chuck was the NCAA runner-up in 1934 and national champion in 1936. It has been said that Kocsis "virtually owned the state of Michigan when it came to winning golf championships" with two state junior titles, two championships in high school, six times a winner of the Michigan Amateur, and three times a winner of the Michigan Open.

During his post-collegiate career, Chuck was named to the United States Walker Cup team three times, in three different decades - 1938, 1949 and 1957. He played in the U.S. Amateur 15 times; was U.S. Open low amateur in 1934 and '37; and was low amateur at the Masters Tournament in 1952, one of his 11 appearances at Augusta National.

Just a few days before his death, he was featured with a 6-page cover story in *Golfweek* magazine. The interview took place at the University of Michigan Golf Course where Chuck played frequently. Another recent article had this to say about him: "Chuck Kocsis played golf as much with sass as with skill, which is how in 1931 an 18-year-old kid from Detroit beat Tommy Armour, past champion of the British and U.S. Opens, in an 18-hole playoff to win the Michigan Open."

A delightful interview with Chuck can be found on the internet at michigangolfer.tv. The interview took place in March of 2003 and is titled, "Chuck Kocsis -- The Best There Ever Was." It was conducted on the 17th tee of The Monument Golf Course at Boyne Mountain. The 17th was chosen by Chuck as his favorite hole on The Monument, which has a plaque there describing his achievements. In the interview Chuck shares his thoughts about Sarazen, Snead, Nelson, Palmer, Hagen and Tiger.