

THE SIGMAN

LAMBDA CHI ALPHA ■ SIGMA ZETA
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
SEPTEMBER 2012



2012 Founders Day Dinner

On March 25th 2012, Sigma Zeta celebrated its 99th anniversary. Alumni and undergraduate brothers celebrated with a buffet of sandwiches, a vegetable tray, chicken and cake.

Academic awards were presented by the Alumni association after the meal (See the following for details).

Following the awards, a house corporation meeting was held in the George W. Spasyk Chapter Room. Alumni and guests left the Chapter House after the meeting and are looking forward for their next visit and Sigma's 100th anniversary next year.



Steve Marin '06, Mariano Lowenstern '08, Ben Hoff '06, and George Friess '57 enjoy the Founders Day spread.

Mike Farrell '70, George Friess '57, Mariano Lowenstern '08, Ben Hoff '06, Steve Marin '06, Ethan Rein '07, Andy Knowlton '74, Brad Quinn '01, Tony Ling '00, Nate Whetsell '05, Rocky Pozza '71, and Kush Goyal '01 were in attendance.



Sigma will be celebrating our 100th anniversary in grand fashion on March 16 at Barton Hills Country Club in Ann Arbor. Please see the invitation sent with this newsletter for more details.

Sigma Alumni Association Fall 2011 Academic Awards:

Bruce L. Koepfgen Award for Highest Semester GPA - Rex Zhou '15
William K. Hall for Most Improved Semester GPA - Kyle Burdette '14
Paul Robertson Jr. Award for 3.5 or Higher Semester GPA - Ian Bouyoucos '14, Benjamin Clark '13, Mike Padiila '15, Rex Zhou '15

2012-13 Calendar of Events

Saturday, October 13 - Homecoming Brunch

Michigan vs. Illinois at Michigan Stadium

Saturday, March 16 - 100th Anniversary Celebration

Barton Hills Country Club, Ann Arbor

More information can be found at www.lcamichigan.com
Events held at 1601 Washtenaw unless otherwise noted

Undergraduates Attend General Assembly

By **Davud Kucukarslan '14**



This summer, five undergraduate brothers, **Aaron Helwig '15, Scott Godbold '14, Kevin Kacan '15, Brian Verkinderen '13, and Davud Kucukarslan '14** (all pictured above) attended the 2012 General Assembly in Phoenix at the Arizona Biltmore. Davud was took part in the General Assembly meetings which passed legislation including raising the minimum grade point average to 2.50. The other brothers attended large and small group meetings that covered Recruitment, Fraternity Mysteries and other topics.

The resort was picture perfect with luxurious rooms and a pool around every corner. Each meal was prepared and served masterfully. The entire assembly attend an Arizona Diamondbacks game and sat in an all-you-can-eat section. Brother Kevin Kacan made it his goal to eat double-digit hot dogs by the end of the game.

The General Assembly was a great experience for all the brothers who attended and will help us grow and prosper as a chapter.

Update from the High Alpha

By Davud Kucukarslan '14

Brothers,



My name is Davud Kucukarslan and I have the honor of serving as President for 2012. I am a junior from Farmington Hills studying Electrical Engineering. First off, I would like to thank all of you alumni for your generous support. We would not be where we are today without you.

Sigma has grown in many ways this last term. We raised over \$2,300 for Relay for Life, which is the most since I have been here. Brothers are also reaching out and getting involved around campus as we have brothers in groups ranging from the Marching Band to the Solar Car team to Dance Marathon. Also, our once inept Intramural Sports program is beginning to take steps in the right direction, as our basketball team is competitive again.

I think I can speak for all the brothers in saying how excited I am for the coming school year. We have 25 brothers living in the Chapter House this year, as well as meal service for the first time in years. In addition, our cooks are making us a chapter dinner every Sunday, so feel welcome to stop by since we will normally have enough to feed 40 men. We also know we need to put in the work for recruitment. Our next class of men will determine if we stay where we have been for the last decade or move onto what Sigma was meant to be.

Great things are happening at 1601 these days. Great things that fill me with hope for the future of Lambda Chi Alpha.

Yours in Z.A.X.,

Davud Kucukarslan
dkucukar@umich.edu

21012 Great Lakes Conclave

By Mike Padilla '14

Eight brothers attended the 2012 Great Lakes Regional Conclave held at Edinboro University (EU) in Pennsylvania. After an enjoyable six hour car ride, we arrived at EU for dinner and a welcome speech led by Josh Bow, followed closely by a Harm Reduction Education Session. Brothers were in attendance from Michigan, Ontario, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

Friday night concluded with numerous rounds of intense dodge ball at EU gym facilities.

All the brothers met Saturday morning for a continental breakfast, then proceeded to EU's conference rooms for the day's activities.

Much of the day was devoted to the True Leader initiative. True Leader focuses on leadership within a chapter. Multiple small group and large group discussions were held concentrating on improving leadership development in the brothers.

After dinner elections were held for our local Student Advisory Committee (SAC) representative. Brother



Left to Right: Rex Zhou, Brian Verkinderen, Tarik Gooptu, Scott Godbold, Mike Padilla, Dan Barker, Raleigh Harrington, Aaron Helwig

Brian Verkinderen '14 was elected. Brian joins Sigma brothers **Roger Whitaker '73**, **Bruce Koepfgen '74**, **Louis Leonardi '76**, **Steven Scheidt '79**, **Ethan Rein '07**, and **Christopher VanDeusen '08**, who have served on the SAC in years past.

Celebrating 40 years of Associate Membership

In 1972, the Lambda Chi Alpha General Assembly voted to abolish pledging in favor of a new model of Fraternity Education. New members were treated with respect, allowed to vote, and hold office.

Sigma's own **George Spasyk '49** proposed this education model. George was in his fourth year as Executive Director of the General Fraternity. His time at Michigan shaped his vision for the Fraternity Education model.

Like many veterans, George lived in a dorm outside of Ann Arbor. The bus route to and from classes took George past 1601 Washtenaw, where he spotted the brothers working around the house day and night. Their enthusiasm for the house inspired George to become a Lambda Chi pledge. George and the pledges participated in the maintenance at alongside the brothers.

After the period of inactivity during the war, the chapter needed to

hold daily chapter meetings. The pledges were invited and allowed to vote. The brothers had no interest in separating the pledge class from the brotherhood or time to engage in hazing

As Executive, George wrote a series of articles, called *Reflections*, in *The Cross and Crescent*. George's most famous article was titled "Pledges - Who Needs Them?" In this brief article, he argues against the model of pledging and hazing and describes the Associate Member program.

A collection of seventy-two of George's *Reflections* is available at the General Fraternity's website which celebrates the 40th Anniversary of the 1972 General Assembly. That website can be found at www.lamdachi.org/40th-anniversary.

Nate Whetsell '05 worked on the team which prepared this version of the *Reflections* Book for digital publication.

Golf Outing Wrap-up

Ethan Rein '07



On a beautiful June day, fifteen Sigma Brothers gathered at the University of Michigan Golf Course for a morning and afternoon of golf and fellowship at the 7th annual George Pomey Sigma Golf Outing.

Following the round of golf, the brothers went across Stadium Boulevard to Nub Turner's office for a tasty buffet style lunch.

Brothers in attendance: George Friess '57, Gary Gillespie '65, George Grove '58, Bill Hall '65, John Hardy '64, Kevin Kacan '15, Len Lybarger '55, Kevin Mantay '13, John Martin '64, Mike Mason '65, George Pomey '65, Fred Sheffler '57, Nub Turner '60, Larry Twitchell '65, and George Volis '57. Colin Campbell '08 and Scott Godbold '14 were in attendance to take photos.



Greek Week 2012

Kyle Burdette '14

Greek week is a chance for all fraternities and sororities to raise money for local charities. The charities range from supporting children who lost a parent to raising food for the Food Gatherers. Sigma was joined on its quest to be the best by Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority and Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity. With a clear mindset between our partners and ourselves we hit the events to do as best as we could.

One of our surprising strengths turned out to be the egg toss. For the second time in three years we took first place at this event. We also fared pretty well at the can castle building contest. We built one of the most intricate and complex castles that Greek Week had ever seen.

The highlight of Greek Week is the annual Sing and Variety competition. For the Variety competition, Sigma Brothers along with their teammates choreographed a dance number to songs of their choosing. The variety team came up with the name The Boston Massacre and the Sing team came up with The Boston Glee Party.

The variety team implemented never before seen moves at Greek Week. Moves included one in which the guys hoisted girls over their heads in a hand stand position. Sigma's brothers who are members of the Michigan Cheerleading team provided a unique advantage.

The sing team was proud to carry on Sigma's strong singing legacy. They created an amazing melody of songs that earned them third place, the best rank we have achieved in recent years at Greek Week. Check out Icamichigan.com for more about Sigma's proud singing heritage.

Having contributed to helping the charities we all went back to the house with a deep sense of satisfaction and fulfillment.

2012 George Pomey Golf Outing Golf Photos

Above: Bill Hall '65, Mike Mason '65, Jack Hardy '64 and George Pomey '65

Upper Left: George Volis '57, George Friess '57 and Nub Turner '60

Lower Left: Fred Sheffler '57

Lower Right: Len Lybarger (Denison '55)

2012 High Zeta

High Alpha
President
Davud Kucukarslan '14

High Beta
Internal Vice President
Ben Clark '13

High Theta
External Vice President
Brian Verkinderen '14

High Gamma
Secretary
Scott Godbold '14

High Tau
Treasurer
Aaron Helwig '15

High Iota
Risk Management Chairman
Jacob Miller '14

High Kappa
Fraternity Education Chairman
Warren Morningstar '13

High Delta
Recruitment Chairman
Kevin Kacan '15

High Phi
Ritualist
Alex Fox '14

High Sigma
Education Chairman
Rex Zhou '15

High Epsilon
Social Chairman
Kevin Mantay '12

High Rho
Alumni Secretary
Yurong Wu '15

Alumni News and Notes



Mariano Lowenstern '08 married the former Angela Sandelin on May 27, 2012 in Kalamazoo. **Ethan Pickering '09, Ben Hoff '06, Steve Marin '06, Ethan Rein '07,** and **Sean Ruwart '08** (all pictured in upper photo to the left) were in attendance.

Mario and Angela live in Durham, North Carolina.



Ethan Rein '07 married the former Rochelle Weller on August 25, 2012. **Chris VanDeusen '08, Mariano Lowenstern '08, Ethan Pickering '09, Scott Nielsen '04, Ben Hoff '06, Sean Ruwart '08, Steve Marin '06,** and **Nate Whetsell '05** (all pictured in lower photo to the left) were in attendance.

Ethan and Rochelle live in Lansing, Michigan.

James Crabtree '07 and his wife Jessie welcomed their son Sam into the world.

David Lloyd '12 will begin a position as an industrial engineer at L-3 Communications in Salt Lake City.



Tommy Knowlton '04 married the former Jennifer Meyer-son on September 2, 2012 in Grand Rapids, Mich. **Andy Knowlton '74** (father of the groom), **Ben Hoff '06, Nick Ferreira '04 (best man),** and **Scott Nielsen '04** were in attendance. Nick and Tommy are pictured to the left.

Tommy and Jennifer live in San Jose, California.

Let us know what you're up to! Send notes, updates, and photos to Ethan Rein at:

ethanrein@gmail.com

ethanrein@gmail.com

100th Anniversary Celebration—March 16

On March 16, 2013 Sigma will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the momentous occasion on March 31, 1913 when the Grand High Zeta of Lambda Chi Alpha granted a charter to a group of men at Michigan.

The celebration will include a reception at the Chapter House, tours of the University campus, and a celebratory dinner at Barton Hills Country Club. A complete list of activities can be found with the invitation included with this newsletter. Also, check out www.lcamichigan.com for more information.



Detroit-based Artist Zac Gorman has designed this print of the chapter house.

New Equipment Coming to 1601

The Sigma Alumni Association voted to approve funds to purchase bedroom furniture and kitchen appliances to provide a comfortable environment for the 25 residents at 1601 this fall.

Ten mattresses, seven bed frames, and six desk chairs were purchased for the individual study room. For the first time in a few years, every bedroom in the house is full.

An ice maker, which can produce up to 150 pounds of ice over twenty four hours, and a new thirteen cubic foot freezer have been ordered and will be installed in the near future. The increased number of residents at the chapter house and the in house dining program will make serious use of these new appliances.

In addition to the physical investments made to the Chapter House, the alumni association paid for five Brothers to live rent-free at the Chapter House this past summer. They mowed the lawn, received furniture deliveries, steamed cleaned the carpets, and performed other maintenance projects.

Be sure to ask to see the new purchases the next time you stop by the Chapter House.

In Memoriam

Frank O. Brabaw '58, Sigma 732, died Aug. 6, 2011 at age 76. Frank was born in Lorain, Ohio and he worked for 38 years on missile guidance system projects at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida. He is survived by his wife, Mary Katherine, his high school sweetheart, and their children, Steve, Jeff and Elaine.

George J. Busby '66, died October 8, 2011 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Robert Clark '57, Sigma 731, passed away May 23, 2012 after a courageous battle with cancer. He played varsity tennis at Michigan and went on to receive his PhD in Analytical Chemistry at the University of Illinois. His thirty five year career was at the Sandia National Laboratories in New Mexico where he received multiple patents for work on advanced batteries including some used in NASA space research

Sigma 720 **Jim Lawrence** passed away in 2011. After studying at Michigan, Jim left Ann Arbor to continue his studies at Michigan State.

Bill Markstrom '53, died June 23, 2012. Bill was High Alpha in 1952-53.

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

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