

THETA THETA CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY

# WOLVERINE SIG

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

OCTOBER 2012

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### Chapter Earns Peterson Award!

After a 27 year hiatus we are proud to announce the undergraduate brothers have earned a Peterson Award for their efforts. This award is the highest honor the Fraternity bestows upon an undergraduate chapter and recognizes excellent performance in all major areas of operation and programming. Our undergraduate brothers' dedication and commitment to bettering our chapter has been amazing and the award was well deserved. Congratulations!

## REUNION

### '50s & '60s Reunite at Michigan/Michigan State Game

More than 26 brothers and their spouses from the late '50s-early '60s are having a mini-reunion the weekend of October 20 in Ann Arbor. Activities include golf, cocktail reception, dinner, tailgating, and more. Attendees are staying at the Eagle Crest Marriott in Ypsilanti.

For more info, contact **Bill Swaney '60** at [wcs@swaneyfamily.net](mailto:wcs@swaneyfamily.net).

## IN MEMORY

We recently learned of the passing of these brothers...

**Goff Smith '38**  
**Norman Legacki '66**  
**J. Duncan**

## ACTIVE CHAPTER UPDATE

### Theta Theta Kicks Off the Fall Semester

**Come Honor the House's 100-Year Birthday This Homecoming!**

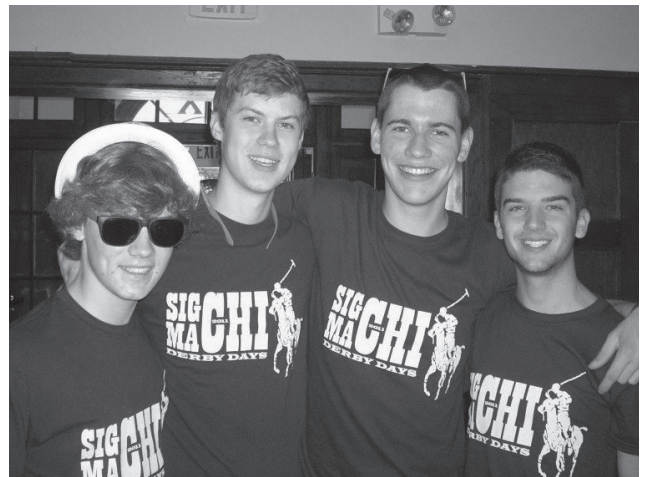
By David Train, ΘΘ '83; [dtrain@ckgppw.com](mailto:dtrain@ckgppw.com)

Another summer has flown by, and the fall semester is here! We've been making many preparations for the new academic year. The Sigma Chi house was built in the best and most visible location on campus. The lawn and landscaping were old and tired and did not reflect the dedication, commitment and pride we all have for the Fraternity and the grand old house. Thankfully, the House Corporation Board authorized funds to hire a landscaping firm to install a new lawn, landscaping, lighting, watering system and fences. Everything is finally taking root and looks good.

On the inside, the brothers have hired a chef and will have meals prepared at the house. We have also purchased a new freezer, ice maker, cooking supplies and serving and dining ware.

The brothers take pride in the house and are eager to meet alumni and give an informal tour so that we can show you the improvements we've made.

The best time to stop by will be Homecoming Weekend. The house will be hosting a Homecoming celebration on October 13th. We are expecting a great gathering this year. There are some groups planning reunions this year so look for more information on our websites [www.umsigmachi.com](http://www.umsigmachi.com) and [www.thetatheta.com](http://www.thetatheta.com).



Brothers Fletcher, Hoffman, Fillinich, and Summit cheer on the Wolverines.

And, we will be getting in the spirit for next fall's Homecoming and Centennial Rededication as the house turns 100 years old.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions and thank you again for your continued support.



Sigma Chi is sporting some great new landscaping updates!

# ANNUAL FUND UPDATE

## A Return to Our Better (Stronger) Days

It's the most wonderful time of the year. The undergrads are here, and the Wolverines are back in action.

We just wrapped up a great year for Theta Theta's Annual Fund, and raised more than

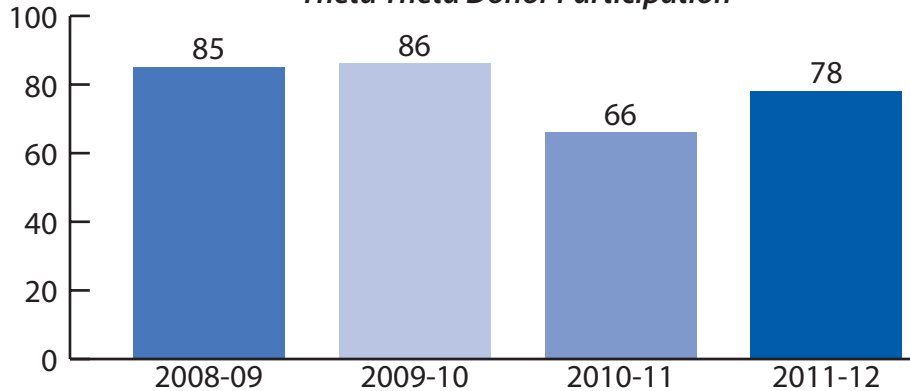
\$19,000 to maintain a secure alumni network, improve communications, subsidize events, and offset maintenance on the house. This is a huge improvement over the \$12,000 raised in the previous giving year.

But our work is far from over. Right now, only 6.4 percent of alums donate—and this number fluctuates heavily from year to year. It's hard to plan our alumni programs when we don't have a consistent and predictable stream of revenue coming in. Please, we need every brother to give back on an annual basis, even if it's just a small gift.

Today, we have a vibrant chapter, but need to secure our legacy by recruiting high-caliber actives—and that requires an investment from you. Ideally, we'd like to see a return to our better days and have at least 100 brothers donate each year.

If you haven't been able to donate recently, please do so online at [www.thetatheta.com](http://www.thetatheta.com), and help us reach our goal to have 100 brothers give this year. Thanks in advance for your support!

**Theta Theta Donor Participation**



## 2011-12 HONOR ROLL

A special thanks goes out to the following brothers who were generous enough to support Theta Theta's 2011-12 Annual Fund, which ended its giving year on August 31. Your commitment and loyalty to Sigma Chi is greatly appreciated. It is only through the support of our brothers that Theta Theta remains a strong, vibrant, and proud community.

### \$500+

Charles Thatcher Ph.D.	1943
W. Tom ZurSchmiede Jr.	1948
Milton Eaton	1956
John Madigan	1958
William Swaney	1960
Ralph Bahna	1964
Frederick Lambert	1965
Kevin Klok	1978
John Crouch Jr.	1983
Todd Halsted	1984
Mark Malueg	1984
E. Jeffrey Kuchman	1985

### \$100-\$499

Philip Modlin	1947
Arthur Dole III	1948
E. McKinney Jr.	1948
Winn Taplin Jr.	1948
Howard Cooper Jr.	1950
Walter Teninga	1950
Neil Celley	1951
Jack Zinser	1951
Paul Fancher	1953
John Maddox DDS	1955
Lance Minor Jr.	1955
Gerald (Jerry) Prescott Jr.	1956
Charles McCann Jr.	1957

Charles Weir	1957
John Chapman	1958
Terence McIlhargey	1959
John Spidel	1959
Robert McCollum	1960
Tim Heinle	1961
John McGuire	1961
Thomas Bredt	1962
Paul Cooper	1963
Henry Dunbar	1963
Frederick Damm	1964
Terry Timm DDS	1964
John Utley Jr.	1964
George Wade	1964
Douglas Leupen	1968
Robert Wellman MD	1970
Thomas DeHorn	1982
David Barnett	1983
James Toal	1984
Robert Zahm	1984
David Kowal	1985
Daniel Kowal	1986
David Nyren	1986
Daniel Page	1987
Frank Bloomquist	1988
Joseph Higgins	1988
James Mellin	1988
David Feikens	1989

Jonas Rodger	1991
John Bowen USAF	1992
Nitin Mittal	2001
Steve Begeny	2003

### Up to \$99

Bill Brink	1940
Fred Betzhold Jr.	1943
Chalmers Elliott	1948
William Clark	1950
Joseph Hardig Jr., Esq	1951
James Harsant	1952
L. Fortenberry USAF(Ret.)	1954
Charles Ritter	1954
H. Hockstad	1955
Phillip Jacobus	1955
Paul Thomas	1955
Robert Appleman	1956
Frederick Trost	1957
David Stickney	1958
Jack Huizingh	1964
Robert Gerometta	1968
David Bayus	1973
Douglas Wright	1977
D. Michael Esper	1989

## ALUMNI UPDATES

### **Fred C. Betzhold, Jr. '43**

(The Windsor, 3600 Grove Ave Rm 17, Richmond, VA 23221) My wife, who was my high school sweetheart, passed away in 2009. We were married 66 years. Life is hard without her. We went to many fall football games and stopped at the Big House.

### **Chuck Thatcher '43**

(740 2nd St SE Apt 213, Milaca, MN 56353; elthatch017@gmail.com) My wife's death in April was hard to take but did let me "get back into Sigma Chi" at our Grand Council meeting and workshop and look forward to Grand Chapter next June. It's exciting to be active again despite my chapter year!

### **Neil R. Celley '51**

(216 Kenwood, Ann Arbor, MI 48103) I retired, married 60 yrs to Delta Zeta Virginia and have three kids. My son Todd is a Sig at MSU and I have a daughter, Marsha, and two grandkids, Kristin who is a nurse of UM Hospital, and Karen who is an inhalation therapist at UM Hospital. Michael is a retired US Army Iraq veteran. Right now, I enjoy golf, water color painting, and taking care of our dog Jack.

### **Thomas Dyckman '54**

(135 Eastlake Rd, Ithaca, NY 14850; trd2@cornell.edu) I was influenced by several Sigs while at Michigan including Steve White, my big brother, Jerry Davis, a fine athlete, but perhaps most by my roommate Bob (Rosie) Littleton, a prince of a fellow as well as an outstanding athlete, and last but not least by a long shot, Paul Fancher, a role model for any Sig. As for me I spent three years in the Navy, taught for three years at California Berkeley and for 49 at Cornell University. My wife, a Pi Phi whom I met at Michigan, and I were married in 1955. We will celebrate our 57th anniversary this fall. At nearly 81, I still run half marathons and I was elected to the Accounting Hall of Fame in 2010.

This past fall, we traveled to Ann Arbor for a reunion of our 1951 pledge class and watched the Wolverines eek out a close one over the Air Force thanks to a great game by the Michigan quarterback.

### **Paul W. Thomas '55**

(16 Loft Dr., Martinsville, NJ 08836-2263; pthomas321@hotmail.com) I went to the Air Force game this September with a bunch of Sigs from the late '50s. Professor Chuck Ritler

is lining up the reunion for us for at least the 8th time.

### **John Ziegler '55**

(71 S. River Rd., Sewalls Point, FL 34996; jzee@comcast.net) I joined the '51 fall and '52 spring pledge class alums for an Ann Arbor reunion this fall. Chuck Ritter and Paul Thomas organized the whole thing, which they have been doing for years. Those in attendance included **John Fildew, Jack Maddox, Lance Minor, Tom Dyckman, Jim Ford, Will Perry** and **Jerry Hockstead**.

### **Milton "Seaweed" Eaton '56**

(86 Brets Road, Brattleboro, VT 05301; mil-toneaton@comcast.net) I have just combined a granddaughter's wedding/family reunion in Bellevue, WA with a visit to Brother **Dave "Witless" Watson '54** in Spokane, WA. Wit was a diver and ski jumper and the first Theta Theta volunteer during the Korean War. From being a kid with the WWII vets, he returned to the house as an elder. Wit is in the Washington Veteran's home, being cared for by Margaret, his wife of over 40 years. I know he would love to hear from brothers. Here is his address: 4209 South Cook Street, Spokane WA 99223

I also saw Brother **Paul Fancher '53** and his Sweetheart Mary at Lake Willoughby, Vermont when they came from Ann Arbor for a granddaughter's graduation. They are fine and still live in Ann Arbor.

My wife Sylvia and I are both still healthy and now live in Vermont. Carol Parkhill Eaton '56, died in 1995, but Sylvia has adopted Michigan and roots with the rest of us. Any Brothers coming to Vermont, please get in touch. It is a very small state and I know we can find one another.

### **Henry Dunbar '63**

(10700 Sugarland Dr., El Paso, TX 79924; hwdunbar@me.com) I just celebrated my 42nd wedding anniversary with my wife Elizabeth. Two hip replacements in the past year have made walking and exercising in the gym much easier. I'm active with the Texas Retired Teachers Association since retiring in December 2003. In short, life is good.

### **Ralph Bauna '64**

(111 Cascade Road, Stamford, CT 06903; rbahna@msn.com) I serve as Chairman and am the Founder of Club Quarters, hotels in prime big-city locations for the use of

cost-conscious member organizations and also serve as Chairman of priceline.com, the world's largest supplier of hotel rooms. A good part of my working life has included launching major concepts for the travel industry. In recent years, I have been working with Coach Joe McFarland on the University of Michigan wrestling program. My experience at the University of Michigan, particularly wrestling, was "game changing" and I had a very full and pleasurable experience at the Theta Theta Chapter. My advice to a "younger you" would be to add another five minutes of thinking when doing something important.

### **Larry Kellogg '72**

(139 Lynwood Drive, Madison Heights, VA 24572; Lkellogg5272@aol.com) My wife and I have retired and are now living in the greater-Richmond, VA area. I am currently singing with Soundworks, a five-time champion a cappella ensemble, playing lots of golf, and enjoying my two grandchildren. In addition to me, Soundworks has two other Sigs in the ensemble - Glenn Van Tuyle (Lafayette College) and Hardman Jones (University of Georgia). The three of us have a lot in common and we've enjoyed sharing some (only some) of our college stories.

### **Ronald Strauss '74**

(144 Freedom St. S.E., Wyoming, MI 49548; rbstrauss@yahoo.com) I am married to Vivian and have two children (Kimberly and Mark). I am retired from Steelcase Inc. Office Furniture and live in Wyoming. I am part-founder of Grand Rapids HighFive Co-op Brewery and work for Harmony Brewery Co. in Grand Rapids, Michigan. My son Mark Strauss did two tours in Iraq and is with the California National Guard living in Indio, California. Both Mark and I are involved with TheWEU (World Education University) out of Rancho Marage, California. I am also involved with Chris Coppola, Nicholas Cage's brother, and promote his Project Accessible Hollywood (www.pahnationfest.org). I am also supporting Blue Falcon Studios in Hollywood! I am overseeing a non-profit Historical Society in Wyoming, Michigan called Beck-Maze. We are restoring this Artist Colony with 1850s homes and late 1800s cottages and early 1900s homes. I hope to be invited to Theta Theta's 100 Year Reunion this fall! I do have some old photos from 1972-1974 at the house!.

(Continued on page 4)



## ALUMNI Q&A

### Henry Dunbar '63 Reflects on Essence of Sigma Chi Membership

Thanks to **Henry Dunbar** for participating in this Q&A.

*What do you miss most about your undergrad days?* I miss the freedom to make my own choices, and manage my own time.

*What experiences from your days in Sigma Chi still resonate with you today?* I have two: pledging and initiation. They were the two activities where the entire chapter was intensely focused, because it had a vested interest in the transfer of knowledge about Sigma

Chi to the selected group chosen to perpetuate the fraternity forward. The two activities are as clear today to me as they were when I was a participant. These two activities carried combined emotional, intellectual and physical commitments which, for me, were the essence of Sigma Chi membership, not to be forgotten in my lifetime.

*What song (or songs) defines your college experience?* The Victors! As a former member of the Men's Glee Club, it is inescapably a part of my brain.

*What advice would you give the younger you?* Study more!

Henry just celebrated his 42<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary with his wife, Elizabeth. He has had two hip replacements in the past year, but he's walking and exercising in the gym much easier now. He retired in 2003, but is still active with the Texas Retired Teachers Association. In short, "life is good."

*You can contact Henry at [hwunbar@me.com](mailto:hwunbar@me.com).*

## MEMORIES

### Brothers Reflect on Sports, Friendships, and their Lifelong Loves

What's the best memory from my Sigma Chi days? The J Hop (in 1942?) when my high school sweetheart stayed in the big House during the fall and spring semesters.

- **Fred C. Betzhold, Jr. '43**

It has to be 1946 when I met my wife 'On the Diagonal!' We later got married in Ann Arbor in 1949, and are still married 60+ years later!

- **Winn L. Taplin, Jr. '48**

My best memories include my great roommates: **Bob Malgregor**, **Phil Timvan**, **Bill Sadler** and **Fred Breidenback**; also the football games like the "Snow Bowl" at Ohio State with Sigma Chi "Stick" Williams.

- **Joseph L. Hardig, Jr., Esq '51**

Dating my brown-eyed sweetheart since our first day of biology lab in 1947. The Former Ruth Oestreicher, an Ann Arbor Girl, is now my wife of 59 years.

- **David L. Neisch '51**

Great IM athletic teams, lasting friends, great weddings.

- **Don E. Woodard, MD '52**

*What do you recall about your days as a Theta Theta? To submit a funny story or memorable event about your time as an undergraduate, just send it to [content@affinityconnection.com](mailto:content@affinityconnection.com), and mention Sigma Chi at Michigan. We may include it in an upcoming newsletter.*

## ALUMNI UPDATES

(Continued from page 3)

### James Cotter '80

(3760 Oak Tree SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546; [jprmcotter@yahoo.com](mailto:jprmcotter@yahoo.com)) My family and I have recently moved back from China after three years. We have relocated to Grand Rapids. I have many fond memories of my Theta Theta days. I miss the personalities and friendships and would advise a younger me to be much more involved in Campus life and Fraternity activities. I wish I could print some of my funniest Sigma Chi memories.

### Bob Zahm '84

(7 Ridgewood Drive, Rye, NY 10580;

[bobzahm@gmail.com](mailto:bobzahm@gmail.com)) The Zahm family had an amazing summer with a 3-week trip to Africa that started with all five of us climbing to the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro. At 19,300+ feet this was an excursion we'll all remember, especially our 12 year old. We followed that up with bungee jumping at Victoria Falls and a safari in South Africa. Maybe a reunion of the pledge class of 1982 on the Inca Trail would be appropriate?

### Terry Babe '98

([tbabeum@yahoo.com](mailto:tbabeum@yahoo.com)) My family (Carrie, Tyler and Evelyn) and I recently relocated

from Chicago to New Jersey, to work in Manhattan at Goldman Sachs. Since relocating, I've been able to hang out with a few pledge brothers, Nate Bayko and Brian Teets, who have been living in Manhattan. Nate and I recently golfed in New Jersey with another Theta Theta, Ken Kim. Always good to get together and share a few stories from back in the day! I'm looking forward to hitting the State game in Ann Arbor this fall with a few other Sigs.