

A Publication of Gamma Chi Chapter of Sigma Chi

# CROSSROADS

University of Maryland

College Park, Md.

April 2001

## ***Undergrads Making About-Face, Seeking Solutions for House***

By Thomas Parsons '93, House Corporation President

It has been an exciting year so far. For those of you who do not know, last homecoming we held new elections for the House Corporation. Elected members started with a fresh, bold outlook for the Gamma Chi chapter, building on the foundation laid and successes gained from the outgoing members. As we started our mission, we were challenged with an old house in a state of perpetual disrepair and an undergraduate chapter that lacked direction.

Due to the hard work of Jon Miller, Chapter Adviser, his Co-Chapter Advisers, and the commitments of newly elected undergraduate officers, the undergraduate chapter has made an about-face. The chapter is now one of the strongest in the region based upon the comments made by our province's Grand Praetor. With this work came an announcement from the General Fraternity that the chapter was removed from "show cause" status. Congratulations to Jon and the undergraduates!

The House Corporation also made a charge to show our support for the undergraduates to provide a facility that will enhance their fraternal experience. We undertook expenses to repair falling walls, fix and repair the plumbing, and paint the interior of the house. While committing to these expenditures, we kept cost in mind, knowing that these are only short-term fixes.

We have held many talks, including some with the university, to discuss the possibilities that could lead to the renovation of the chapter house. This has been an area of discussion for many years and will continue to be until a process is put into place to solve the house's problems.

As many of you may know, the dynamics of the university have changed and the dynamics of our fraternity have changed as well. Although the fraternity is allowed to have parties, the times and attendance allowed at these parties are strictly enforced by the university. The past five years have brought about a change from trying to fight these university regulations to living with them.

Listening to our undergraduate brothers, the needs are now for proper educational facilities, Internet and cable access, better rooms and bathroom facilities. The House Corporation's new mission is to find a way to provide the undergraduates with a facility that will do all of the above.

Continued, Page 2



More than 100 golfers attend the Fourth Annual Sigma Chi Golf Classic in May 2000, making it a day to remember. Pictured from left to right are Keith Goldan, Josh Pruet, Rick Quade, Matt Trone and Tom Parsons (all Class of 1993).

***Join the 5th Annual Sigma Chi  
Golf Classic ~ Flier Enclosed  
Friday, June 15, 2001***



## ***The Tradition Continues***

By Scott Werber '86

We had more than 100 golfers attend our Fourth Annual Sigma Chi Golf Classic last year. Due to the growing popularity of the event we expect even more this year. Last year's winners of the golf shop gift certificates were John Klar '86, J.P. Bishop '87 and Frank Caruso '85 for best team score; John Klar '86 for longest drive; and Chris Palmer '99 for closest to the pin. The closest to being a pinhead award goes to Chris McGuire '01, although he didn't receive a gift certificate. After the enjoyable round, we retired to the University of Maryland's new clubhouse where food and drink awaited. Thanks to Dave Beall '87, what seemed like a short Happy Hour was lengthened.

A special thanks to the hole sponsors: Tom Burton '84, Alex Brown Realty; Nick Abid '85, COMSYS; Chris Kennedy '85, Schochor, Federico and Staton, P.A.; Jack Heise '47, Heise Jorgensen and Stefanelli, P.A.; Bob Basham '70, Outback Steakhouse; Tony Crane '83, Crane Homes; Shannon Allcock '86, Bartlett Roofing & Sheet Metal; Carl Essl '85, Glen Echo Hardware. I appreciate the work that Rob Stauffer '97 did in helping organize the event and Mo Rowe '88 for the golf shirts, of which we've received so many compliments. We look forward to seeing you this year on June 15!

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**Undergrads Making About-Face ... Continued**

The discussions with the university, although insightful, were not what we expected and we felt that the proposed "gifting of the house" to the university would not benefit the Gamma Chi chapter in the long run. We have therefore put that option on the back burner.

With the support of the Gamma Chi Educational Foundation, we have turned to looking for support from the corporate sector. We have started a process to establish relationships that could provide tax-deductibility to funding companies as well as future benefits after the renovation is completed. This is going to be a hard road to travel, but we are excited at the possibilities that it presents. We would like your support in this venture and request that any information that may help us achieve our goal is forwarded.

With all that being said, I would like to emphasize that we alumni are key to the ongoing success of our undergraduate chapter. Thank you to all those who have given time in the past, and those currently giving their time to make Gamma Chi a better place for the young men that follow in our footsteps. In many endeavors, as in this one, time is often more valuable than money. I implore everyone to take the opportunity to help with the continual development of the Gamma Chi chapter and its undergraduate brothers. I look forward to seeing you all at our golf tournament on June 15 at the University of Maryland!

**Chapter Making Good Progress**

By Matt McCance '01, Consul

The brothers have made a lot of progress in the past several months. In mid November, the chapter elected a new executive committee to lead the brothers through some past problems. Fortunately, these efforts have not gone unnoticed. Most notably, the chapter was recently taken off its "show-cause" probationary status with the General Fraternity. This proactive momentum continues to focus the brothers on bettering the chapter in the months ahead.

This past January, the chapter launched its site on the Internet at [www.umdsigmachi.org](http://www.umdsigmachi.org). Please visit the site to see what is taking place at the chapter house and what events are coming up in the near future. There is a page dedicated to alumni that posts alumni announcements, pictures and contact information. Realizing how useful this site has been so far, we are doing our best to keep it updated.

In February, the brothers returned from winter break with a newly painted house and many repairs undertaken. In the middle of the month, the chapter accepted 15 men into our Spring 2001 pledge class. Thus far, the pledge class has proved impressive and should be a great influence in the chapter's future.

Continued, Page 3

Fishing, crabbing, antiques and travel keep retired attorney **Raymond E. Jones Jr. '53** (24848 Deep Water Point Dr., Saint Michaels, MD 21663) busy these days. He also collects marine art and enjoys visiting his grandchildren. He's in contact with **Jim O'Steen '53**. Pictured at a luncheon in September 1999 are (back L-R) **Fred Stillwagen '51, Chuck Heine '54, Henry C. Marshall '51, Raymond Jones '53, Dick Greenwell '52, Jack Sprague '51, (front L-R) John J. Appel '50, Ed Burtner '52, Dick Garver '51, Spencer Hopkins '52 and Allen Jackson '54.**



## Good Progress

... Continued

This March the chapter undertook some projects to improve the chapter house. Chapter Adviser Jon Miller has donated five computers to be used in converting the office to a computer/study room. In addition, efforts are being made to improve the living room including purchasing additional couches and the recent purchase of a big screen television. In April, the chapter will finish up its philanthropic service events and fulfill the university's vision program. Of foremost importance will be the chapter's long overdue dedication to brother Jason Jenkins. In late April, the chapter, in conjunction with several local alumni are planning to rebuild the basketball court in preparation for a university-wide basketball tournament in honor of J.J. Alumni contacts for this event are Chris Domergue '99 and Zlatan Beca '00 (contact information is on the Web site).

May will wrap up many of the efforts the chapter has undertaken throughout the semester. In addition, a new slate of officers will be installed and a large group of brothers will graduate.

If you should have any questions or comments, please contact me at [mccance@wam.umd.edu](mailto:mccance@wam.umd.edu) or 301-461-0567.



# Alumni News

**John M. Firmin '36** (6708 Conway Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912) wrote to us in March 2000. "Still walking and enjoying those 'blonds' from the rear in the summertime. Can't catch up to them any more — I'm 87 years old."

Consultant **Guy Ullman '43** (7908 Sycamore Dr., Falls Church, VA 22042; [guystb@aol.com](mailto:guystb@aol.com)) is president of Science & Technology Business, a company supporting new technology rotorcraft. For more information, you can check out the Web site at [www.cartercopter.com](http://www.cartercopter.com).

In June 2000, **Waldo H. Burnside '49** (1266 Stradella Rd., Los Angeles, CA 90077) was inducted into the University of Maryland Alumni Association Hall of Fame.

**David T. Price '51** (2600 N.E. 24th St., Lighthouse Point, FL 33064) serves as general counsel to Food For The Poor Inc. He's retired as a lieutenant and aviator with the Naval Reserve. Dave's hobbies include diving, skiing and spending time at his vacation home in the Bahamas.

**William F. Andrews Jr. '53** (3 Chartwell Mnr., Nashville, TN 37215) is chairman of several companies, including Northwestern Steel & Wire Co. and Schell Fasteners Inc.

**Charles H. Day '53** (7426 Morrison Dr., Greenbelt, MD 20770) plays golf with **Lou Schap '53** and **Jim Garritty '55**, has spoken with **Will Johns '48** and is in touch with **Bill Herndon '53**, **Bill Andrews '53**, **Ben Nowland '53** and many other Sigs.

For several weeks in October and November 2000, **Herbert D. Hill Jr. '53** (1 Longfellow Pl.,

Apt. 2121, Boston, MA 02114) had a display of his photographs hung at the West End Branch of the Boston Public Library. The exhibit, titled "Scene Around Boston," featured 72 of his pictures taken in the city from 1997-2000.

When he wrote last October, **Wallace E. Downey Jr. '58** (1353 Woodbrook Ln., Southlake, TX 76092; [sip1@flash.net](mailto:sip1@flash.net)) was headed for Northern Ireland and planning to play golf at Royal County Down and Royal Portrush. He is associated with Southwestern Information Publishing.

After 33 years of service with the State of New Jersey, **Michael R. Ferrara '67** (21 Colts Neck Ter., Yardville, NJ 08620; [mferrara@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:mferrara@rci.rutgers.edu)) retired last year as associate director of the Office of Management and Budget. He has begun a new career as assistant director of budget and resource studies at Rutgers University. Michael has two children. He sends greetings to all brothers and especially to those he partied, played bridge and studied with during his four years at Maryland.

**Gregory J. Kaminski '68** (12159 Shorewood Dr. S.W., Seattle, WA 98146; [pacificb@nwlink.com](mailto:pacificb@nwlink.com)) is the owner, general manager and CEO of Pacific Reservation Service and Pacific Rental Service. He keeps in touch with classmate **Bob Casazza**.

**Ralph H. Beachley Jr. '69** (474 Saint Brides Ct., Severna Park, MD 21146; [rbcpa@erols.com](mailto:rbcpa@erols.com)) reports that his son, Vincent, was initiated into the Eta Lambda chapter of Sigma Chi at Virginia Tech in February 2000.

**Robert E. Donaldson '69** (118 Tollgate Way, Falls Church, VA 22046; [robert.donaldson@verizon.net](mailto:robert.donaldson@verizon.net)) has retired from Verizon Communications after 30 years with the company and is now doing e-business consulting with [TelcomStrategy.com](http://TelcomStrategy.com).

**Gregory Droege '74** (4451 Sheppard Ln., Ellicott City, MD 21042; [gdroege@thayerlodging.com](mailto:gdroege@thayerlodging.com)) is managing director of Thayer Lodging Group. In November 1999, he attended the initiation of Keith Bradshaw, the son of Terry and **Steve Bradshaw '74**, into Sigma Chi at the University of Utah. Steve snapped this picture at the event: (L-R) **Ron Messenheimer '74**, Keith's Big Brother Matt, Terry, Greg and **Jay Bradshaw '86**.



Continued



# Alumni News

In May 2000, **Dennis L. Zerbo '70** (P.O. Box 2561, Petaluma, CA 94953; denzerb@gct21.net) attended the University of Maryland alumni dinner and social at St. Francis Yacht Club on the San Francisco Bay. There were no other Sigma Chis there, but he had the opportunity to meet President Mote. "Rocky," a self-employed nutrition educator and consultant, stays in touch with **Kirk Allen '70**.

Lawyer **Douglas O. Waikart '75** (4904 Hornbeam Dr., Rockville, MD 20853; waikart@wrightlaw.com), a partner in Wright & Talisman, has been in the private practice of energy law for more than two decades. He and his wife, Charlotte, have a teenaged son. Douglas sees **Jim Reid '75** and **Scott Wallace '75** on occasion and **Frank Waikart '68** and **Tom Waikart '69**.

**Robert A. Facchina '77** (5 Bluebird Ct., Flemington, NJ 08822) is president, CEO and principal shareholder of Johanna Foods Inc. At the University of Maryland, he has chaired the "Bold Vision — Bright Future" campaign for the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and created a scholarship fund in his name to benefit deserving students studying nutrition and food science. In recognition of his contributions to the community, Robert received the Immanuel Award for Community Service at the annual Bread and Roses Ball and Auction. He and his wife, Dale, have two children.

In a new job, **William W. Malnati '79** (6837 S. Franklin Cir., Littleton, CO 80122; mal2you@aol.com) is a regional vice president at U.S. Allianz. He's been in the financial service distribution business for more than 20 years. "Wally" has six children.

**John F. Rabai '43** (904 Coral Ct., New Bern, NC 28560; gholly@coastalnet.com) enjoyed a mini-reunion in Williamsburg, Va., in 1999 with several of his Sigma Chi classmates. All of them are charter members of Gamma Chi. After playing golf, the group posed for a photo at the Sigma Chi house at William & Mary. L-R: **Bill Stelhorn**, Brother Rabai, **John Frederick**, **Ned Steinberg** and **Jack Miller**.

You can write to **John G. D'Albora '85** at 9605 Dewmar Ln., Kensington, MD 20895; dalbyhouse@aol.com. He now has three children.

**Victor L. Bradford '86** (6968 Newberry Dr., Columbia, MD 21044; vbradford@mris.com) is a realtor with REMAX. He welcomes **Greg Toland '84** back to Maryland. Victor reports that Greg is now working for Channel 7 as a sportscaster and weekend anchor.

**Gregory S. Tignor '86** has been promoted to director of sales operations for the U.S. and Canada at Storage Technology Corp. With his new position, he and his family have relocated to 1823 Alpine St., Longmont, CO 80501. In July 2000, the Tignors welcomed the arrival of their third child and daughter, Anna. Brothers can reach Gregory via e-mail at tignorgk@earthlink.net.

**John P. Bishop '87** (6005 Leaves Of Grass Ct., Clarksville, MD 21029; jpbishop1@home.com) is operations manager at Bob Bell Automotive Group. He entered the University of Baltimore Law School in the fall of 2000.

After more than 10 years with the Secret Service, **James W. Walsh '88** (6307 Oakburl Ln., Sugar Land, TX 77479; jwwwalsh@yahoo.com) joined the FBI as a special agent. His son, Matthew, turns 2 this May.

**Erik L. Lane '94** (355 S. 17th St., San Jose, CA 95112), a senior engineer at Site Smith,

is in his third year as chapter adviser for the Epsilon Theta chapter at San Jose State University. You can look up their Web site at [www.epsilontheta.org](http://www.epsilontheta.org).

**Jason T. Crouse '97** has a new address at 2320 E. Baltimore St., Baltimore, MD 21224; jtcrouse@mindspring.com. He received his J.D. from the Wake Forest School of Law last year and is now a law clerk with the Office of the Public Defender in Baltimore.

Since publication of our last issue, we have learned of the death of **Meredith Helm '45** (3/13/00) **James K. Cullen Jr. '46** (7/15/00) **William F. White '54** (7/99) **J. Peter Bachman III '59** (5/3/99) **Roger L. Howell '65** (6/21/99) **John S. Goodwin '73** (9/11/00) Sigma Chi mourns their passing and extends condolences to their families and friends.



## 2001 Football Schedule

Sept. 1	* North Carolina	College Park, Md.
Sept. 8	Eastern Michigan	College Park, Md.
Sept. 15	West Virginia	College Park, Md.
Sept. 22	* at Wake Forest	Winston-Salem, N.C.
Sept. 29	IDLE	IDLE
Oct. 6	* Virginia	College Park, Md.
Oct. 13	* at Georgia Tech	Atlanta, Ga.
Oct. 20	* Duke	College Park, Md.
Oct. 27	* at Florida State	Tallahassee, Fla.
Nov. 3	Troy State	College Park, Md.
Nov. 10	* Clemson	College Park, Md.
Nov. 17	* at NC State	Raleigh, N.C.

\* Indicates ACC game.



**CROSSROADS** is published for the alumni and friends of the Gamma Chi Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity at the University of Maryland. Address changes, news items, photographs and contributions are always welcome and may be sent in the enclosed envelope or mailed to

Sigma Chi Fraternity,  
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