

# The Arizona Sig

Sigma Chi at The University of Arizona • Fall 2007

## Recolonizing Beta Phi: Securing a Strong Future

The cornerstone of the Campaign for Excellence is leadership development. Teaching our future young brothers leadership, character development, and accountability will not only reap rewards at the undergraduate chapter development level but pay dividends in the future for alumni development, achievement, and chapter support.

Brothers, without a doubt, there are young men of sound character with the qualities typified by the Jordan Standard and the Sigma Chi Creed both at the U of A now and in the years to come. The undergraduate years are filled with academic and social development and adjustments. High school life is nothing like that at the University of Arizona. For most, this is the first time in their lives that they alone are making decisions on their daily schedule, academic efforts, and social life. It is our responsibility and goal to forge a program through the Campaign for Excellence that will not only return the Beta Phi Chapter as the preeminent fraternity at the University of Arizona, but also teach them the life lessons that will last them a lifetime.

In the past years as we have worked toward the re-colonization of the Chapter and through various alumni events, one common thread has surfaced: The experiences and lessons learned at the Beta Phi Chapter and the qualities of Sigma Chi Fraternity have had a significant impact on our alumni brothers of all ages and decades. Many met their wives through Sigma Chi, found lifelong friendships and contacts, and have said the lessons of Sigma Chi have served them well.



*Brothers enjoying SSI 2007. See article on page 6.*

### First Rush Is A Huge Success

Beta Phi participated in the formal IFC Fall Rush and our success was well beyond expectations. Rush was headed up by Alumni Advisory Team Member Matt Micksin '05, Eric Bolt from Sigma Chi Headquarters, and Duo Park, a Sigma Chi transfer student at the U of A. With the help of some strong recommendations from our alumni, these brothers were able to

recruit several really solid undergraduates prior to formal rush beginning. This core group, along with over twenty alumni brothers, secured a pledge class of 28 young men of high quality. To put it in perspective, there are seven Sigma Chi chapters in the Southwestern Province. Only ASU, a chapter in excess of 150 actives, pledged more men. Because we are a colony, we will continue to rush quality men throughout the school year and the number may continue to grow. Hats off to Matt, Eric, Duo, and all the alumni who helped with rush. We are off to a great start! Now we need Beta Phi alumni worldwide to join us to help ensure the future success of the Chapter.

## UASIGMAChi.ORG

Surf on over now to recommend a fine gentleman for membership, or to download all photos, including other unpublished photos from this edition of The Arizona Sig.



# *The Arizona Sig*

Published by the Beta Phi Alumni  
Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity.

Please direct all news for *The Arizona Sig* to:

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## Homecoming 2006: Fun For All

We are pleased so many brothers and sweethearts could attend Homecoming 2006 activities. We saw so many faces we haven't seen in years. Glad you could attend.

The festivities commenced with the 2006 Beta Phi Hall of Honor induction ceremony. Brothers Jim Corbet '61, Ed Eisele '61, Ron Bergamo '65, Philip "Flip" May '80, and Chris Ackerley '91 were inducted into the Hall.

It was wonderful to hear them tell of their experiences in the Beta Phi Chapter. Thank you Brother Eisele for your kind words and warm memories of undergraduate years past. The bonds of brotherhood transcend decades.

Saturday saw a large turnout at the hospitality tent on the Mall. The only thing better was the win over UCLA. Thank you Wildcats for a great game. After the game, we enjoyed Brothers Marques '93 and Ray '93 Flores' hospitality at El Charro Cafe. A good time was had by all.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as can attend Homecoming 2007 activities November 2 - 3, 2007. The invitation is inserted in this edition of *The Arizona Sig* or you can always check the website ([www.UASigmaChi.org](http://www.UASigmaChi.org)) for additional details. See you there!

## Newest Life Loyal Sigs:

Peter J. Corpstein, Sr. '52  
Col. John S. Yaryan '57  
Frank E. White '63  
David K. Knott '64  
Timothy R. Arendt '86

Want to become a Life Loyal Sig? Go to [www.UASigmaChi.org](http://www.UASigmaChi.org) and at the bottom of the main page click the "Life Loyal" button.

## Chapter Eternal:

We are saddened to announce the passing of our dear Beta Phi brothers in Sigma Chi:

William P. Stier '47 of Alameda, CA - November 2006  
William T. Birmingham '48 of Phoenix, AZ - August 2006

*All honor to their names...*

## Bobcats Dedicate Bench to the Honor of Ron St. John '81

During Homecoming 2006 activities, Bobcats, the senior men's and women's honorary, dedicated a bench which they had raised the money to purchase next to the Old Main fountain in honor of Ron St. John, Beta Phi 1981, a Bobcat, and past ASUA president.

Brother St. John accomplished much in his short life. His work in the Middle East where he passed away in helping draft the Iraqi Constitution has established him as a shining example of the quality of the Sigma Chi man. Ron exemplified the spirit of giving back and dedicated his life to helping "the other guy." The majority of his adult life was spent in some Third-World nation helping others.

This bench's location directly next to the Old Main fountain has significance for his Sig brothers. Many of us were thrown into the fountain after a pinning or engagement. He will always be with us. In his name, we have established the Ron St. John Leadership Committee made up of past Sigma Chi ASUA leaders. We will be establishing the annual Ron St. John Leadership Award and Scholarship in the near future.

All honor to his name.



### What it means to be a Sig....

*I believe in fairness, decency and honor...*

*I believe that it is my duty to help my fellow man...*

*I believe that following the lessons of the White Cross will enrich my life and make me a better man...*

*I believe that the White Cross is an unachievable goal that I will spend my life trying to achieve...*

*I believe in the concepts of leadership, character and self-accountability...*

*I believe that it is my duty to pass this on to future generations of young brothers.*



# Campaign Update

The Beta Phi Campaign for ΣXcellence is well under way. Through the third quarter of 2007, we have commitments in excess of \$1,469,500 from 47 alumni brothers. Keep in mind that we have about 1,600 alumni of Beta Phi Chapter so we are off to a great start! With support from all of us, we can reach our goal. Our plans are to build the Beta Phi Leadership Facility at 1511 East First Street, directly north of the old 1510 Sig house. The facility will have as much of the look and feel of 1510 as we can achieve, but with modern technology and amenities. Picture a house looking similar to 1510 but built with prison standards and nice finishes. The house will feature tributes to our rich history of leadership at the University. Please join us by making a financial commitment to the Chapter. Our plans are fiscally conservative and we will not build without the proper money collected and checks and balances in place. When considering your family's comfort level on a pledge, here are some quotes of brothers who have made serious commitments already:

"Sigma Chi provided me a tremendous experience. I feel I owe it to provide that experience for future generations."

"The well thought out plan along with the checks and balances that the committee has in place give me a comfort level that Beta Phi will be back for good."

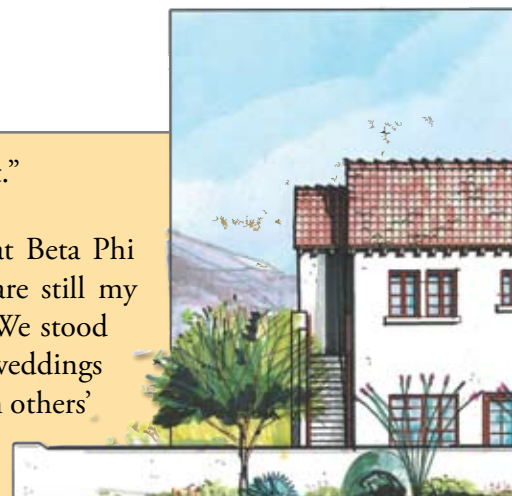
"Well, I guess I contributed to us getting booted the first time and this pledge is my opportunity to give something

back and make it right."

"The brothers I met at Beta Phi as an undergraduate are still my closest friends today. We stood up at each others' weddings and have watched each others' careers blossom. U of A without Beta Phi is just not right!"

"There is no way I am going back to my beloved University and looking at that FIJI house and the new ΣAE house without Sigma Chi being there. We were better than those guys then, and it is imperative we do this thing right."

"The time is now. Our brothers from the 1950's and 1960's won't be around forever and the brothers from the 1980's aren't far enough along in their careers to pull the whole thing off financially. If we miss this window, Beta Phi will have a very tough time ever coming back."



SIDE BUILDING ELEVATION





ING ELEVATION • N. VINE AVENUE

BETA PHI CHAPTER LEADERSHIP CENTER  
SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY FACILITY

FOR: SIGMA CHI BUILDING COMPANY  
UNIVERSITY VILLAGE • UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA • TUCSON ARIZONA



DATE: 28 OCT. 2005  
SCALE: 3/8"=1'-0"  
DESIGNED: DJB  
DRAWN: DJB  
JOB NO.: 000000

FINAL SCHEME

EXTERIOR BUILDING ELEVATIONS  
A-1

## *Beta Phi Continues to Rush!*

The University of Arizona and Sigma Chi International Fraternity both have recognized us as a new colony. The Fraternity's New Chapter Development Committee has overseen the recruiting effort with assistance from local alumni. Recruiting emphasizes selecting young men who are high achievers and good students. Not all of us excelled in scholarship during our collegiate years but it is imperative to the success of a new chapter to recruit serious students. Scholarship plays an important role in hitting the required milestones set by the General Fraternity and the University of Arizona. Both organizations are looking to Beta Phi to be leaders on campus and in the classroom. If you know a young man you'd like to recommend, fill out the recommendation either here or online and we will be sure he is contacted.

## *We need you!*

Opportunities to help as an alumnus are listed below. Please plug in wherever you can.

**Financial Support** – Our plans will simply not be achieved without proper funding. Please give.

**Advisory Boards** – We have the Chapter surrounded by the "Seven Circles of Support." Seven small alumni organizations focused on different missions to ensure the long term sustainability of the Chapter. Contact us as to how you want to plug in:

- **Advisory Board** – For each chapter officer, one local Tucson alumni and one located outside of Tucson will offer guidance and support to the undergraduate officer.
- **Parents' Club** – Help is needed to guide and grow this group.
- **Historical Society** – Documents and showcases the achievements of our brothers.
- **Educational Foundation** – A non-profit built to provide financial support to students.
- **House Corporation** – Oversees housing facilities and landlord activities.
- **Board of Governors** – Past consuls and former student body presidents.
- **Mentors** – Simply send us your name, occupation, and contact information and we will pair you up "electronically" with an undergraduate student. This is a vital rush tool and we need our talented brothers to offer a sliver of their time to this worthy program.

Other ways to help:

- Send us your photos so we can build the archives in the Historical Society. You can scan them and e-mail us the photos or send us your photos. We will scan them and return the originals to you.
- Send us updated contact information on the brothers you stay in contact with. Simply e-mail their "v-card" from Outlook or send it to us any other way you like. We are building a comprehensive e-mail database so we can keep everyone informed up-to-the-minute.



# FIRST AND VINE: THE BIRTHPLACE OF BROTHERHOOD

I've always been attracted to beauty, which, I confess, is a bizarre craving for a blind guy. No wonder this immature, insecure, scared-to-death freshman thought he had landed in heaven when he enrolled at the U of A in the fall of 1965. In today's lingo, there was lots of eye candy—more than this sheltered kid could handle. What a rush (literally)! But the only one who actually stole my heart was the grand old dame who stood on the corner of First and Vine. Her beauty was not skin-deep. The "Plaster Palace," as we affectionately called her, represented integrity, responsibility, love, and honor. Our romance flourished and within a few months, she gave birth to one of the greatest blessings of my life—Sigma Chi brotherhood. That's where it all began.

Fast forward 42 years to May 5<sup>th</sup>, my home in Phoenix, Arizona, SSI 2007. Street signs warn drivers: "Watch for Wild Goats," and "Caution: Loose Sweathogs." Round the bend and you know you have arrived. The sign on the corner reads "First and Vine." A blue-and-gold-shrouded white cross hangs beneath the American flag. A bunch of gorgeous, sexy babes get off the bus on the arms of wrinkled, gray-haired, paunchy old guys who have to rack their brains to answer the required question, "In what name come ye hither," to get in the door.

"I knew it was going to be memorable when I saw the livestock trailer carrying Poopas backing out of your driveway as we arrived," wrote Brother Bill Wamsley '68.

Surely not the notorious Poopas of "Poopas Brewery" fame! Yep, the brewery is open and there is Poopas in all his glory—irreverently gnawing on the roses and pooping on the patio while several ducks, reminiscent of 60's-style South Sea Islanders, make a public display of mutual fondness in the pool.

No one notices the animals' antics because everybody is either doing double-takes with furrowed brows overlooking familiar faces in the crowd or already partaking in their own love fest. Memories from four decades ago flow forth in hugs, kisses, tears, and laughter. I hear the unforgettable voices of brothers I haven't talked to since graduation. Yet, when we slip the grip, it's like we've been friends forever. We jab and joke and tell Sig stories that haven't changed with time. Embellishment isn't necessary when facts are funnier than fiction. With the liquor (margaritas - not pure-grain alcohol as in days gone by) flowing through surgical tubing from a second-floor balcony to the thirsty souls below, I worry that things might get out of hand

in the Cumoniwannalaya Hut. No indecency there yet, but I'll keep an eye on it.



I keep flashing back to First and Vine. We were pranksters, jokesters, and troublemakers. We were scholars, athletes, and entrepreneurs. We were strong leaders and good followers. We played hard and worked hard. We got the girls, the intramural banners, the honors. No individual guy could have achieved all this, but every man brought his own personality, talents, and beliefs to the house. No one had to sacrifice his unique qualities because we honored and valued every contribution. Through the bond of friendship we excelled at everything because we were one. We pledged Sigma Chi because we wanted to be the best and be a part of the best.

Back to SSI 2007. So many years have passed, yet we still are one. The white cross centerpiece on every table seems even more significant now than it did back then. After initiation, we wore the white cross with pride. It represented our ideals as defined by the Jordan Standard and symbolized encouragement to those striving for a common ideal greater than ourselves. We didn't always deserve the honor of wearing the pin. Every one of us violated the Jordan Standard and brought disfavor to Sigma Chi from time to time. We're human. But the values instilled in us had a lasting impact. Almost to a man, the brothers attending SSI 2007 are living tributes to those Jordan Standard ideals: "A man of good character, a student of fair ability with ambitious purposes, a congenial disposition, possessed of good morals, having a high sense of honor, and a deep sense of personal responsibility." While we may have struggled with some of this stuff during the vulnerable college years, it stuck for the long haul. Today, most of the brothers are highly successful professionals, business owners, educators, public servants, fathers, husbands, grandfathers, friends---in two words, high achievers.

Of course, we experienced firsthand at First and Vine the huge role women play in our success. Every year we honored a Sweet-heart of Sigma Chi for her encouragement, support, and love for Sigma Chi. On this memorable evening, Brothers Luke Helms '66 and Doug Sandahl '71 have the coveted honor of

*(Continued on page 7)*

## *Birthplace of Brotherhood Continued...*

presenting crystal hearts to Sig Sweethearts Linda White '61, Tammy Underwood '64, Kathy Pratt '66, accepted by her husband Gibson Pratt '67, April Ritchie '67, and Krys Custer '68.

Inevitably, the evening turns somber. The three white roses that rise above every white cross have reminded us all evening of our mortality. By now, we've realized several brothers are noticeably absent, but they are not forgotten. Brothers Frank White '62, Lisle Payne '64, and Bob Bretz '67 conduct a white rose ceremony, paying tribute to brothers who have passed away. The list is painfully long. As each name is read, a white rose is placed in a vase, followed by the unanimous chant, "All honor to his name." A red rose, honoring former Sigma Chi Sweetheart Sherrie Keeler '70 completes the bouquet, which is full and fragrant and beautiful—just as it all began at First and Vine. We were just a bunch of guys who had a passion for life. Individually, we all had something to offer, but the combined contributions of talent, ability, love, friendship, respect, and honor led to a bond that can never be broken. I'm a different man because of Sigma Chi. The brotherhood was born at First and Vine. May it live on forever.

- Bill Gibney '69



## *Beta Phi of Sigma Chi Wall of Giving*

### **Grand Consul's Circle (\$100,000 or more)**

John R. Norton, III '50  
Michael C. Anderson '63  
Lisle W. Payne '64  
Jon O. Underwood '64

Jeff S. Schapira '85  
Jeffrey M. Sippel '85  
Michael R. Myers '88  
Bradley S. Butler, M.D. '90  
William A. Chavira '92

### **Consul's Circle (\$50,000 or more)**

Frank E. White '62  
J. Jerome Moiso '63  
J. Michael Powers '64  
Ronald J. Bergamo '65  
William J. Kyte '65  
F. Peter Newcomer '68

### **Norman Shield Circle (\$10,000 or more)**

Daniel B. Skelton '64  
Bill A. Gibney '69  
Douglas A. Tilford '89

### **White Cross Circle (\$25,000 or more)**

Dennis H. Lyon '58  
Paul F. Muscenti '58  
Leo F. Corbet, Jr. '59  
L. Edward Eisele, Jr. '61  
James B. Musgrove '62  
R. Briggs Wood '62  
Jonathan R. Long '64  
Robert H. Bretz '67  
R. Michael Murphy '67  
Bradley W. Day '70  
Steven G. Schuyler '79  
Joseph G. Beers '83  
Robert F. Ellis '84  
Barry H. Gabel '84  
Edward J. Reading '84

### **Constantine Circle (\$5,000 or more)**

Jeffrey T. Garner '67  
David A. Tinkelman '83  
Timothy R. Arendt '86  
Carter E. Morgan '89

### **Gold Order (\$2,500 or more)**

James L. Corbet '61  
D. Michael Barber '66  
David M. West '93

### **Blue Order (\$1,000 or more)**

Carl E. Weiler '55  
James H. Flanagan '66  
Robert B. Nairn '68

### **Life Loyal Club (\$100 or more)**

W. Earl Powles, Jr. '51  
Paul R. Gehlsen '90

# SAVE THE DATE! Homecoming 2007

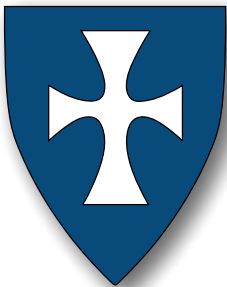


Saturday, November 3, 2007

UCLA vs. Arizona



*ALWAYS CHECK [WWW.UASIGMACHI.ORG](http://WWW.UASIGMACHI.ORG) AS THE  
EVENT NEARS FOR MORE DETAILS!*



**Beta Phi Chapter  
Sigma Chi Fraternity**  
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2660 North 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
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*Return Service Requested*

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