

# The Arizona Sig

[www.UASigmaChi.org](http://www.UASigmaChi.org)

Sigma Chi at the University of Arizona · Spring 2010



## Tucson Alumni Chapter Revival

The revival of Sigma Chi's Tucson alumni organization is well under way with a membership of 35 and growing. Recognition of the group as a chapter by national is expected on June 12.

The alumni group's president is Steve Schuyler, Beta Phi '79, and he is supported by a 14-member executive committee.

The association has been meeting since last fall with a wide array of speakers and business meetings. Among the speakers have been former UA baseball coach Jerry Kindall; Paul Portney, dean of the UA's Eller College of Management; Brother Dana Cooper, a representative of IMG, a college marketing and media firm; and Jim Moore, president of the UA Foundation.

The alumni group generally meets once a month. The next meeting is May 5 during which the Beta Phi Chapter's graduating seniors will be honored. The meeting will be at 6 p.m. at the chapter house at 1423 E. First St. Each graduating senior will say a little about his future plans and what it has meant to be a part of the chapter. They also will be presented with a gift from the alumni group.

The alumni will take a break during the summer but will resume in the fall with a promising schedule. We urge all Tucson area Sigs to join us for a chance to reunite with old friends and to make new ones.

## Beta Phi Named Chapter of Excellence

The University of Arizona has rated Beta Phi as a Chapter of Excellence for its performance during last fall's semester.

The university's Fraternity and Sorority Programs Office gave the Sigma Chi Chapter a 99.88 percent ranking based on academics, leadership and involvement, chapter management, recruitment, health and wellness, and membership education.

Ratings of 80 percent plus are considered Chapters of Achievement, 70 percent plus are Chapters of Promise, and below that chapters are placed on probation.

The chapter also had the highest grade point average -- 2.984 -- of any fraternity on campus with more than five members.

The young men of the undergraduate chapter deserve our congratulations for this achievement. We realize it is the result of much hard work.

## Homecoming 2010 - Save The Date



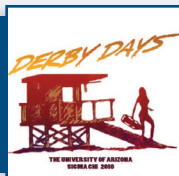
**Circle Oct. 22-24 and join good friends for a fun-filled Homecoming weekend at the Westward Look resort in Tucson.**

- Participate in the annual Hall of Honor induction on Friday.
- Enjoy mariachi music and cocktails at our reunion dinner.
- Attend the Homecoming parade and lunch at the Beta Phi house.
- Watch the Wildcats and Washington Huskies football game.
- Relax with good friends and enjoy the Westward Look resort.

**Reservations at the Westward Look are now open.**

**Instructions for reservations are listed on page 3.**

**Watch your Beta Phi website for more details.**



**Flip to pages 4 & 5 for the Derby Days 2010 Recap, plus Derby photos old and new!**

# *Alumni Chapter Executive Committee*

## ***President***

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## ***Co-Executive Vice President***

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## ***Sigma Chi Building Company Pres.***

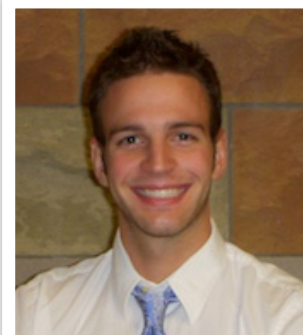
Jim Campbell '88  
jcampbell@macbanlaw.com  
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## ***Members:***

Linn Wallace '60  
Jon Underwood '64  
Tom Furrier '83  
Winston Maddox '71  
Randy Lewis '68  
Larry Hecker '72

# *Consul's Report - Andrew Cole*

After a semester of figuring out how to best use our new facility, the Beta Phi chapter is now running at full tilt. It has become readily apparent that our alumni support, new facility and quality undergraduate members cumulate to create a chapter of the highest quality. Our recent success is apparent quantitatively, such as our Chapter Assessment Tool score of 99.88 percent, the highest in IFC, which the school uses to grade fraternities. Also, we can see the results qualitatively, such as in our most recent pledge class this spring.



This spring we took in 11 new pledges. Again, Michael Colletti and Dan Gibson acted as rush chairs to bring in a group of motivated individuals. Our spring pledge class has an average GPA of 3.5 and includes a National Merit Scholar as well as one UA football player. We look forward to their initiation on April 24.

Scholastically, we continue to excel. Our house grade point average is now the highest in all of IFC, regardless of chapter size. Our members are involved in every honorary on campus including the extremely selective Chain Gang junior honorary and Bobcats senior honorary. Beta Phi has a significant presence in the student government including ASUA Senator Daniel Wallace and Deputy Elections Commissioner Michael Colletti. Dominick San Angelo was elected ASUA senator for the coming school year. In addition, Dane Denby is the president of Arizona Ambassadors.

We have been involved in several philanthropies including running a benefit concert for the Make-a-Wish Foundation with Chi Omega. We participate in a minimum of two philanthropy and/or charitable events each month. Most recently, we hosted our first Derby Days, orchestrated by Michael Colletti. Through Derby Days, we were able to donate more than \$11,000 to the Diamond Children's Center placing Beta Phi in their "major donor" category.

This summer, we will send three members to Horizons, a week-long leadership development program exclusive to Sigma Chi. This program is so successful, it has been requested by Fortune 500 companies for their own employee development needs. John Komadina, Alex Romero-Wagner and Jordan Hongo will attend. Also, alumni chapter vice president Terry Valeski has resurrected the Beta Phi mentorship program, providing career-seeking upper-classmen with the guidance they need to jump start their experience in the professional world.

On behalf of the Beta Phi chapter, I would like to thank alumnus for their devotion and contributions to our chapter. Our university relations, chapter stability, risk management and community involvement are each at an all-time high. Alumni involvement has proved fundamental to our progress thus far, and I would encourage continued involvement to ensure the chapter's continued success.

In Hoc Signo Vincas,

Andrew Cole

# *11 Pledge During Spring Rush at Beta Phi Chapter*



The Beta Phi Chapter of Sigma Chi completed its spring recruitment, culminating in offering 11 bids to outstanding men to compose the new Zeta pledge class. All 11 bids were accepted, and our goal is to ensure they all become active Sigma Chi's. Their cumulative GPA is a 3.52 and two of the 11 are legacies. One is on the University of Arizona football team, and one is a National Merit Scholar. They are also involved in a range of activities, from Eller Elite Scholars to the Honors College to the Blue Chip Leadership Club. The names and year of the 11 young men are below:

Brian Chacon (freshman), Brad Handy (freshman), Matt Jones (sophomore), Ross Madick (sophomore), Will Munion (sophomore), David Parks (freshman), Taylor Reak (sophomore), Tom Sellers (freshman, Sigma Chi Legacy), Todd Torabi (freshman), Michael Tyler (freshman, Sigma Chi Legacy), Jake Yubeta (freshman)

The Pinning Ceremony was held Feb. 3 at the Sigma Chi house on Bid Day, Jan. 30. Afterwards, brothers welcomed our new pledge class into Sigma Chi with a brotherhood barbecue. Initiation Week was held beginning April 19. Magister John Komadina will now take over and be their friend and mentor for the next eight weeks as they embark on their journey to become Sigma Chi brothers. Mission 365 Recruitment is ongoing and we have compiled a list of men to stay in contact with over the semester. If you would like to add a man to this list, please contact Michael Colletti or Dan Gibson, recruitment chairs.

Finally, we would like to thank all the alumni for their guidance and support. Without it, none of this would have been possible.

## *Homecoming Reunion Reservation Instructions at Westward Look Resort*

Dial 1.800.722.2500 and reference the Sigma Chi Group Reunion when making the reservations. (\$149 special group rate) The rooms are spacious and have been renovated this past year. The group rate will apply to extra nights that Beta Phi Alumni would like to reserve. Cancellations must be undertaken 14 days before the reservation date in order to avoid cancellation penalties.

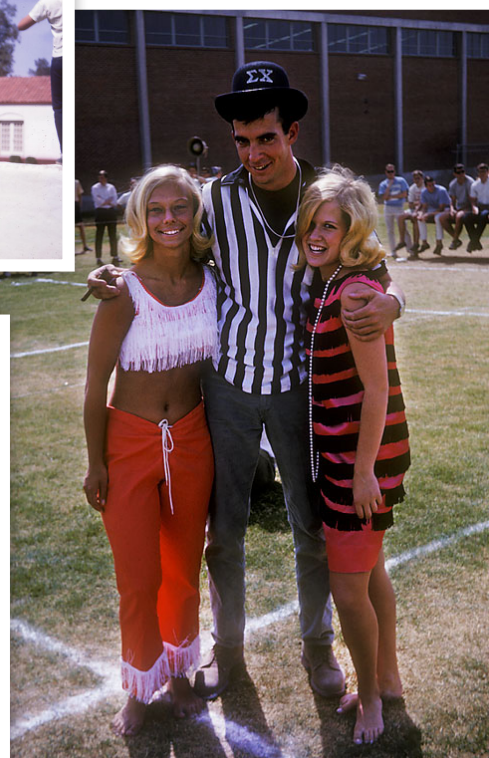
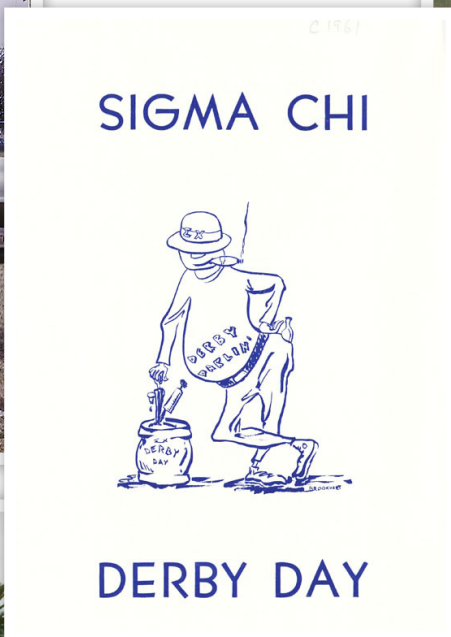
## *2010 Sweetheart of Sigma Chi*



A Gamma Phi Beta junior is the Beta Phi Chapter's Sweetheart of Sigma Chi for 2010. Paige White is a psychology major who also is minoring in Spanish and marketing. She also serves as president of Panhellenic Council.



# Derby Days Then.....





# And Now



## Derby Days 2010 Recap

The first renewal of Derby Days, which took place from February 22-26, was a great success. Derby Days is a vital process of Sigma Chi's overall goal of representing the University of Arizona campus, giving back to the community and benefiting the campus. We of the Beta Phi chapter are proud to say we will be able to donate more than \$11,000 to the Diamond Children's Medical Center.

The Diamond Children's Medical Center is a bright, healing environment where families feel at home and children feel safe while receiving the advanced care they need from the pediatric specialists and researchers.

Some \$5,000 alone came from one event, called Penny Wars in which each sorority had a water jug to fill with pennies and loose change, and whoever donated the most money won the event. Pi Beta Phi won the event, as well as the hotly contested Skit Night, becoming our new Derby Darlings. They were eventually crowned champions of Derby Days, with Kappa Alpha Theta coming in second and Kappa Kappa Gamma finishing third.

Pi Beta Phi was awarded a trophy, a letter to its nationals, an article in the Daily Wildcat, a team picture and a date dash with Sigma Chi. Tons of free prizes were given out during to the week due to our generous sponsors, which included Putney's Grill, Prestige

Fitness, Mr. Tee's and Koofer's.com. The week contained thrilling events such as a volleyball tournament, Sign-A-Sig day, the Derby Chase (where girls attempt to "capture" a Sigma Chi by taking a photo with him and five girls in it), and the wildly popular event, the Derby Hunt (where girls attempted to grab a Sigma Chi's Derby Days Hat while he was wearing it).

Gandhi once said, "Be the change you wish to see in the world." We are dedicated to the betterment of our campus and our community, and our goal is to set the standard for philanthropy at the University of Arizona. Our financial contribution this year will help sick children during a time of need and will ensure that they receive the proper care and treatment they deserve.

On behalf of the Sigma Chi Fraternity, I would like to express our appreciation for your generosity. Thanks to your donations our chapter has revived one of the most important philanthropies in Sigma Chi's history. Your charitable contributions have ensured that Derby Days will continue to be a strong tradition at the University of Arizona and that our fraternity can continue its support of the Diamond Children's Medical Center for years to come.

Michael Colletti  
Derby Days Chairman

# Letter to Parents

## Robin Winters '89 - Chapter Advisor

We are very pleased that your son is affiliated with the Beta Phi Chapter of Sigma Chi and we hope that he is enjoying his University of Arizona experience. As you may be aware the Sigma Chi Fraternity was founded on June 28, 1855 and the Beta Phi Chapter first opened up its campus doors on April 23, 1921. We are communicating to you on behalf of the Sigma Chi Alumni Chapter in Tucson, which plays an active role in working with your son and the other Beta Phi undergraduates.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with timely background information that you may find helpful in your role as a parent. Our intentions are to communicate by e-mail with you three times each school year and to be available to you if you would like to talk about a specific issue or a subject that you would like clarified.

In this communication we have chosen to address the following five subjects:

1. **Membership Size:** We currently have 99 undergraduates (actives and pledges) that are affiliated with the Beta Phi Chapter. This year there was a fall (30 pledges) and spring (11 pledges) rush. Each of the pledges is assigned an upper classman that will serve as his pledge father and be a helpful resource to him during his initial year on campus. At the end of his successful pledge period he goes through an initiation and becomes an active member of the Beta Phi Chapter.
2. **Academic Performance:** The Beta Phi Chapter is currently ranked No. 1 in fraternity Academic (3.03 GPA performance on the campus). Our pledge classes this past year had three National Merit Scholars and one of the seniors recently was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa honorary. Academic performance is a critical element that is carefully evaluated in selecting Beta Phi pledge candidates.
3. **Chapter House Living:** Forty actives reside in the Sigma Chi house. An on-site resident manager is responsible for the management of the facility. Regular meals are served to all fraternity members and chapter meetings are held weekly. The cost of renting at the house is comparable to dormitory rates and less expensive than apartment rentals.

## Beta Phi Mentoring



The Tucson Alumni Chapter began a mentoring and career development program for the undergraduates of the Beta Phi Chapter on April 11.

Alumni chapter vice president Terry Valeski said the goal is "to bring the Sigma Chi experience full circle from undergraduate through their careers and to facilitate the lifelong connection with the chapter."

The plan calls for as many as 12 chapter volunteers to work with 12 undergraduates in the start-up program. "We anticipate many of these initially will be chapter officers," Valeski said.



*Alumni Chapter members gather at the house dedication last fall. Ed Reading, Jon Underwood, Terry Valeski, Jim Johnson, Jim Campbell, Robin Winters and Steve Schuyler.*

4. **Derby Days Event:** Beta Phi recently completed its annual Derby Days event that functions as an action-packed fundraiser for worthwhile non-profit groups. This year over 700 sorority members participated in the event – involving individual skits, a massive T-shirt signing project and group competition as well as other activities. The event was so successful it will result in a more than \$11,000 Beta Phi donation to the Diamond Children's Medical Center in Tucson.
5. **Chapter Advisory Roles:** The Tucson Sigma Chi Alumni Chapter provides advisory resources to the Beta Phi undergraduates. Robin Winters (Current Chapter Advisor) Steve Schuyler (Alumni Chapter President) and Jim Campbell (Building Corporation President) all have on-going relationships with the undergraduates. We feel very strongly that these relationships are important support resources for your son.

In April we introduced a mentoring/career planning pilot program. It will involve 12 undergraduates (seniors and juniors) that will be paired with 12 Tucson Alumni Chapter members. The goal of the program will be to provide the undergraduates with resources that can be used in career planning and to make them more effective as they enter the job market. We are enthusiastic about this program and will communicate with you in the future regarding its success.

We are pleased to be a parental resource and look forward to meeting you at the annual parents weekend or during the Homecoming festivities that are scheduled for October 24-25.

He said he expected the program to reach 30 volunteers and 30 undergraduates next year.

The volunteers will educate undergraduates about life and career opportunities.

Alumni who would like to volunteer must have a commitment to the ideals of Sigma Chi, willing to give a three-year commitment, a desire to engage and counsel undergraduates, provide evaluation and feedback, create a trusting environment while leading by example, willingness to meet with undergraduates on as as-needed basis or at least once a month.

Valeski said he hoped that the program would be a worthwhile experience for the alumni as well as the undergraduates.



# Beta Phi New House Campaign

As many of you have already known, we were successful in negotiating a favorable short term fraternity house lease with the Kappa Sigs that was officially approved by the University of Arizona this past summer. Beta Phi Alumni Jim Campbell and Steve Schuyler successfully coordinated these difficult activities and are owed a great debt of gratitude by all of us.

Many thanks to everyone that responded to Alumni President Steve Schuyler's request for funds to help complete the furnishing/conversion of the Kappa Sig house - the Sigma Chi Greek letters are now in place on the front of the house. Moreover, rugs and blinds have been replaced, new painting has occurred and trophy cases as well as other chapter memorabilia occupy the appropriate space. Approximately \$16,000 of new funds were funded by Beta Phi donors for this purpose.

The current plan is to occupy the Kappa Sig house over the next several years and to successfully complete the new house capital campaign during this time period. We have completed the process of extending our building site land lease from the University until 2114 and updating our

architectural plans for the new Beta Phi house. Many thanks to Nyal Leslie and the members of the real estate committee for their special efforts in helping with these activities. At this juncture, we are planning to successfully complete the capital campaign during the next two years and be in a position to initiate construction of our new house in 2012.

Although we are pleased to report increasing donor support, the pace and the amount of funding has been impacted by the challenging economic environment. As a result of these conditions we have chosen to re-focus our campaign efforts in 2010. So far, we have donations and pledges totaling \$1.4 million toward achieving our \$2 million interim goal. In the past year, we have initiated a special Beta Phi Consul and Pro Consul communications program that will be focused on "recruiting" the past leaders of the Beta Phi Chapter to take a more active role in the current building capital campaign. Many thanks to Joe Beers, Herb Borovansky, Leo Corbet, Bill Gibney, Joe Markling, Mickey Powers, Ed Reading, John Shultz and Steve Schuyler for their personal leadership roles in these efforts.

Our Tucson Alumni Chapter continues to make significant progress. An Officer Group headed by President Steve Schuyler and an active Executive Committee have established a vital 2010 Alumni Program that will entail critical undergraduate activities and a special social/educational resource program that is being coordinated by Linn Wallace for the members. An undergraduate mentoring activity and a career education program for Beta Phi juniors and seniors is being organized by alumni Terry Valeski was recently initiated following the annual Parents Weekend activity this past October and during the January alumni meeting.

Many thanks for your Beta Phi Building Capital Campaign donation.

In Hoc,

Joe Beers, Bob Bretz, Jim Corbet, Leo Corbet, Dave Knott, Bill Gibney, Mike Murphy, Randy Leathers, Joe Long, Paul Muscenti, Lisle Payne, Mickey Powers, Steve Schuyler, John Shultz, Frank White, Jon Underwood

## Campaign Donors

Bob Svob '41  
Chandler Flickinger '49  
John Norton '50  
Earl Carroll '51  
Jack McDuff '51  
Earl Powles '51  
John Carroll '52  
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Chuck Hunter '65  
Jay Kee Jacobson '65  
David Knott '65

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Jeff Lewis '65  
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Lee Nigro '67  
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 Pete Newcomer '68  
 Spence Valentine '68  
 Terry Valeski '68  
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 Chuck Colton '69  
 Robert Garmon '69  
 Bill Gibney '69  
 John Humphries '69  
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 Scott Langley '85  
 Pat McGinley '85  
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 Jeff Sippel '85  
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 Richard Kosinski '87  
 Jim Campbell '88  
 Brent Dover '88  
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 Carter Morgan '89  
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 Matthew Small '97  
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 Andrew Cole '10  
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**For the online pledge form, visit [www.UASigmaChi.org](http://www.UASigmaChi.org) and/or contact Tony Marks at 800-228-7326 or by email at [tony.marksch@fmgtucson.com](mailto:tony.marksch@fmgtucson.com).**

## *Roger Johnson - Chapter Eternal*

Roger Johnson, Beta Phi '52, the University of Arizona's first All-American basketball player who also excelled at baseball, entered the Chapter Eternal on Jan. 27, 2010.

Brother Johnson was a third-team pick by the Helms Foundation. He finished his career with 1,046 points scored to average 12.3 points a game for his 76-game career. He was the second Wildcat to top the 1,000-point plateau.

He was named to the all-Border Conference team three times (1950, '51 and '52) and received all-District 6 honors in 1950-51 and in 1951-52. In his senior year, he was voted the team's most valuable player. In 1951 he received the Bobcats award for most outstanding senior athlete. Brother Johnson was a 1948 graduate of Tucson High School where he played basketball and was captain of the All-State team. He also played baseball and was team captain in his senior year.

In UA baseball, he was named All-America in 1951. After graduation he played for the Boston Red Sox organization. He joined the U.S. Air Force and rose to the rank of colonel. He was a career Air Force officer. He played on the All Air Force basketball team in 1957 and was player-coach of the Air Force team at Chaumont, France, in 1958.

A memorial service was held Feb. 6 in Fountain Hills, Ariz.

