



# 175th Year Anniversary Celebration



by Ryan Bakita, Miami-OH '06

Quartoseptcentennial is a long word – and by definition, a very long time. It is the term used for a 175 year anniversary, which our organization is on the cusp of celebrating. To know that in a country less than 250 years old, Alpha Sigma Phi has been building a better organization that builds better men for 175 of those years is truly amazing. We all know the history: the Founding, a Civil War, the Delta Revival, The Second Founding, two World Wars



Alumni and guests attend the Fraternity's National Conference in 1960.

and the Third Founding. Through it all, the 'Old Gal' has persisted and given true meaning to our symbol, the Phoenix, as again and again Alpha Sig has risen from the ashes.

Elevate - International Leadership Conference took place in Phoenix, Arizona on July 11-14, 2019 and served as the official kick off to the 175th Anniversary. There will be numerous updates and events all across the

country as we march towards Grand Chapter 2020 and ultimately December 6, 2020. These updates and events are not solely geared towards the 175th Anniversary, but also towards highlighting, remembering and celebrating the some 86,000+ total initiates within the Mystic Circle between our 243 chapters (176 are currently active chapters or provisional chapters).

The re-chartering ceremony of the Beta Rho Chapter at the University of Toledo in April 2006.







The official ribbon cutting of Alpha Sigma Phi's Ralph F. Burns Headquarters Building in 2002.

Over the coming months, a myriad of information highlighting the accomplishments of our chapters and members will be shared, and chapters and provisional chapters across the United States and Canada will be hosting events on their campus celebrating this milestone. From Values Exemplifications to Road Tours, a team of dedicated alumni volunteers has come together to provide the membership of Alpha Sigma Phi with the ultimate agenda of experiences and information leading up to the celebration of 175 years as a society that has had innumerable positive impacts on campuses all across this continent.

This anniversary comes at an incredible time for our organization; never before have there been this many active chapters or provisional chapters on campuses in the United States and Canada. Year-after-year, Alpha Sig breaks records with its recruitment of new members. And it's not just about landing on campuses that we have never been on before – the conscious effort of Headquarters Staff and passionate alumni to re-start dormant groups over the past decade has proven an extremely effective way to grow the 'Old Gal' onto new campuses within those same regions. Since 2009, the organization has grown from 60 active chapters and provisional chapters to the aforementioned 176



Alumni sharing stories with undergraduate members at a Fraternity event.

that are active today. Such growth is a testament to the work of our staff at Headquarters, as well as the drive and dedication of our undergraduate members and alumni volunteers.

Starting with Elevate and all the way until Founders Day 2020, all Alpha Sigs should plan to celebrate this amazing accomplishment in a variety of ways; whether it be with brothers in the local area, back on campus with the undergraduate chapter or at regional events hosted by Fraternity Headquarters. As the 10th Oldest Fraternity in the nation, few have been able to accomplish this feat. Undergraduates and alumni alike are encouraged to



The alumni of Gamma Gamma (Connecticut) gather in 2010.





Alpha Sigma Phi's Grand Council circa 1956.

stay in-tune with the updates provided by the 175th Committee, Headquarters and chapters so that all are able to partake in the celebration. When Alpha Sig turned 100 years old, our country was just coming out of WWII. Barely able to sustain itself, a merger with Alpha Kappa Pi was drawn up, which allowed the 'Old Gal' to grow enough to survive through the middle of the 20th century. The Organization endured the turbulent times of the 1960s, '70s and '80s – aided by a Third Founding Campaign in 1984 – and as the calendar turned to the 1990s it became time to prepare for the 150th Anniversary of Alpha Sigma Phi.

Many of you reading this may remember that event. It was held in Charleston, South Carolina the summer of our organization's Sesquicentennial, and joining the celebration were members of the Louis Manigault family. Much like the 150th anniversary of our fraternity, the 175th will be a grand event and will focus on the vision of our founders and their efforts to start a new society at Yale that aimed to Better the Man. Starting this month and for the next year-and-a-half be sure to stay tuned in for updates from the 175th Committee as we continue to showcase not only



The undergraduate men of Eta (Illinois) circa 1960s.

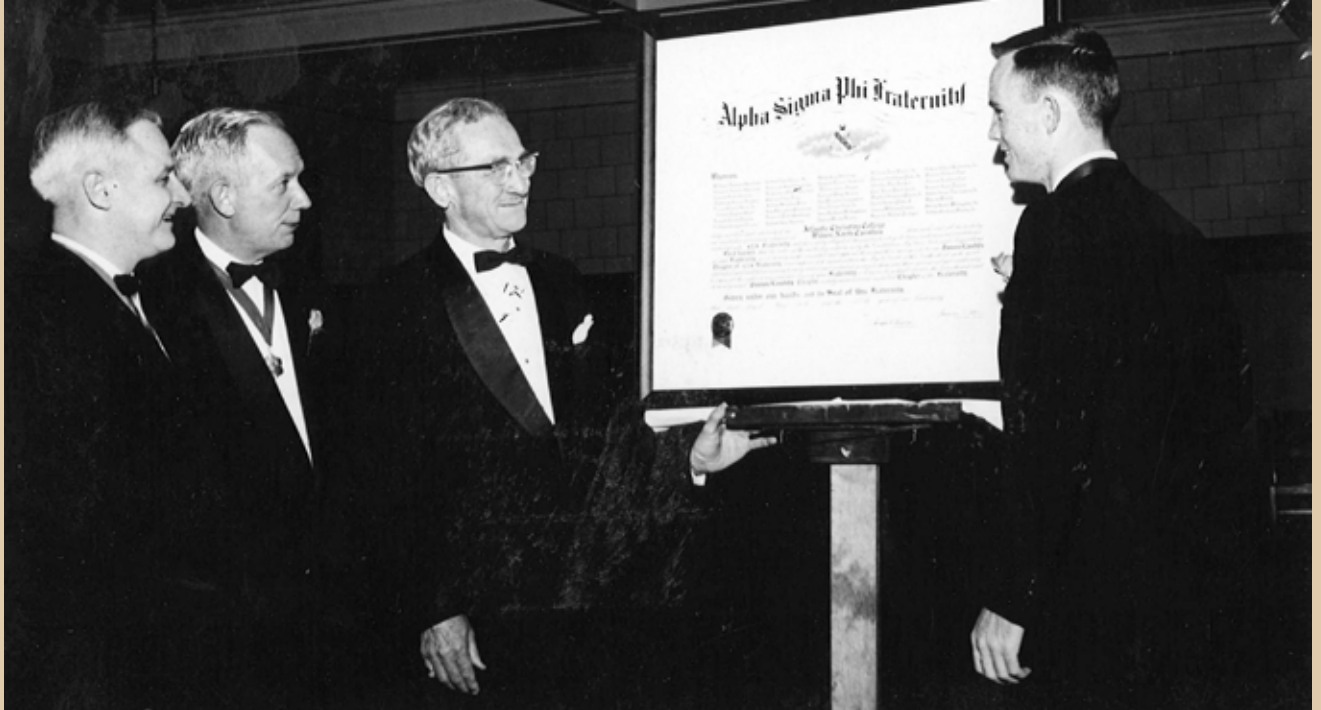
how far we have come as a fraternity, but the current state of affairs and the bright future that lays ahead of us. All of it leading up to the official celebration at Grand Chapter 2020 in Hartford, Connecticut. An event such as this calls for the attention and participation of its membership, and it is the hope of all of those currently involved in the planning of the 175th



Anniversary of Alpha Sigma Phi that you, the reader, are able to once again join your brothers in the Mystic Circle as we celebrate this rare achievement and continue to make Alpha Sigma Phi an even more prominent and impactful organization than she is today. For as our motto states: *Causa Latet, Vis Est Notissima.* ■

Ralph Burns, Ohio Wesleyan '32, Omega '93, shares a moment with his beloved Ann at his 80th birthday celebration.





The chartering ceremony of Gamma Lambda (Barton) in 1958.

The undergraduate men of Theta (Michigan) circa 1980s.



The chartering ceremony of Delta Iota (Longwood) in 1980.





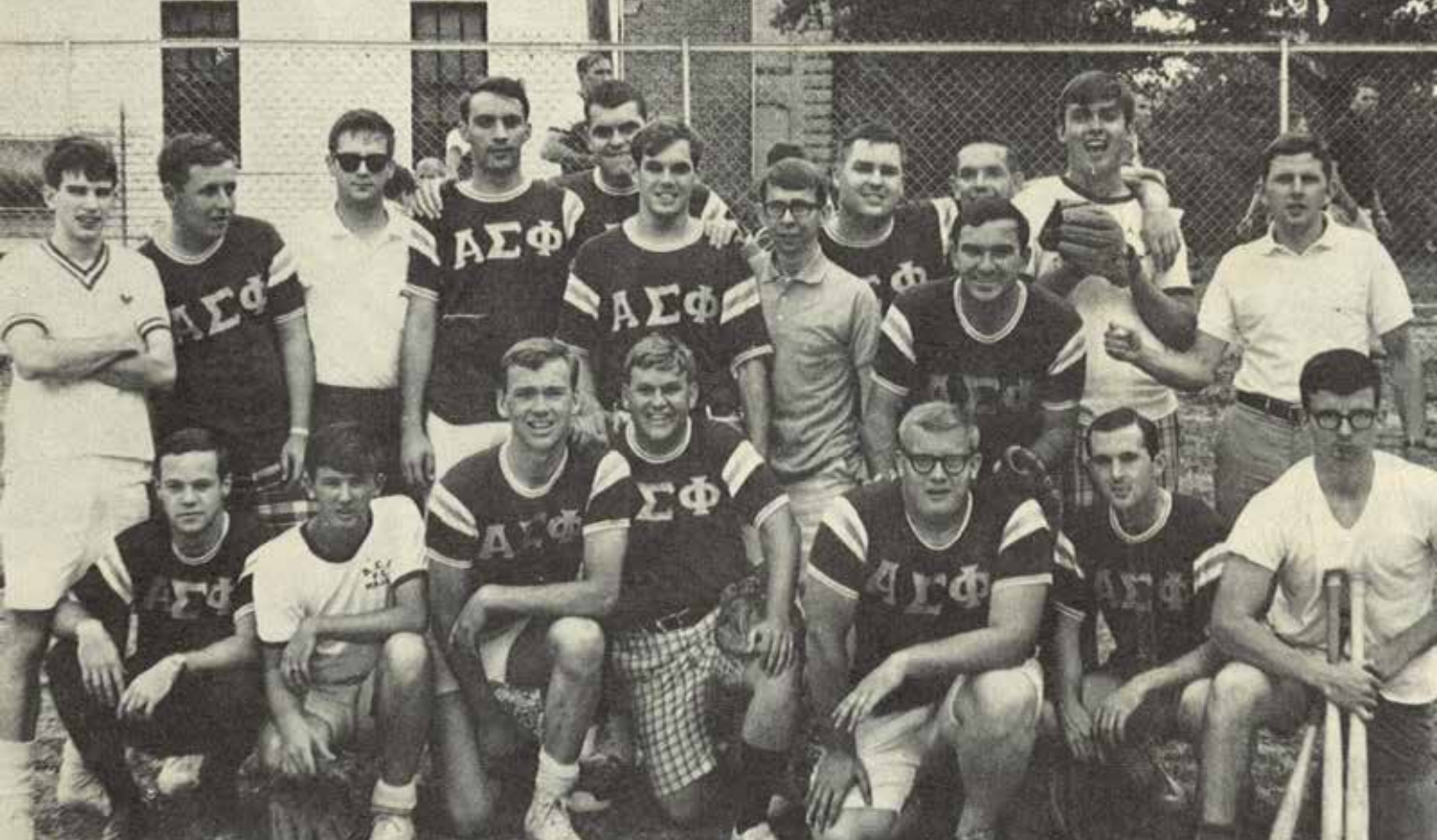


Alumni brothers convene at the Ralph F. Burns Fraternity Headquarters Building circa 2000s.



Brothers from the Phi Chapter at Iowa State University who served in World War II.





Intramural softball champions circa 1960s. Chapter unknown.



Undergraduate members from Iota (Cornell) circa 1990s.