



# CFAC SIGNATURE

Grand Chapter 2003 Special Edition

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## GRAND CHAPTER RETURNS TO ORLANDO

***It's BAAACK!!*** After a 16-year absence, the Central Florida Sigma Chi Alumni Chapter will once again host the International Fraternity's premier celebration - the 74th edition of Grand Chapter. All of Sigma Chi will be in attendance June 25 - 29 for the occasion, held at the award winning, AAA 4-Diamond Marriott Renaissance Orlando Resort at Sea World. Featured events will include our poolside Welcoming Reception, the crowning of the new International Sweetheart of Sigma Chi, a White Rose Luncheon for our sweethearts, and the Final Banquet to conclude the week's festivities.

We expect to show all of our Sigma Chi brethren the usual Central Florida style of Southern hospitality for which we've become known - we're especially glad that a trio of our most esteemed local alums are leading our efforts as Honorary Chairman, Brothers Bob Neel (**Missouri, '48**), Jerry Chicone (**Florida, '56**), and David Godwin (**Florida Southern, '69**). We hope you'll join them to welcome Sigma Chi back to Orlando!

You'll hear more about these events and our Honorary Chairman in the coming months, but for now let's reminisce a bit about Orlando's past Grand Chapter experiences . . .

## 1977    I N   H O C   S I G N O   V I N C E S    1987

The Carlton House on International Drive (now the Holiday Inn) served as the "Grand Chapter House" for Orlando's 1st Grand Chapter in 1977, as 500 Sigs of all ages made their way to Central Florida for fun, sun and to get the Fraternity's work done. There were so many highlights:

- Dr. Charles Collins (**Georgia & Emory, '20** and a founder of our Alumni Chapter) serving as the Honorary Chairman
- Eta Pi performing the first Ritual at Grand Chapter in 20 years
- Mayor Carl Langford proclaiming it "Sigma Chi Week" in Orlando, and City Councilman George Stuart, Jr. (**Florida, '68**) presenting the keys to the city
- Sigma Chi Day at Walt Disney World
- Singing "The Sweetheart of Sigma Chi" to our newest, Kimberly Knight from Oregon State (and she DID have blue eyes and gold hair . . .)
- Singer Carol Lawrence (who was staying at the hotel) graciously providing an impromptu serenade to the crowd of Sigs poolside at the Welcoming Reception
- Having all 10 living Past Grand Consuls in attendance
- Watching Daniel Cooper's badge being pinned on the 49th Grand Consul Jim Bash (**Butler & Indiana, '46**)

Just when we thought we had time to catch our breath . . . Along came the 1987 Grand Chapter, this time held at the Lake Buena Vista Hilton hotel. It was bigger, better and every bit as much fun!! That year's edition featured:

- Dr. Charles Collins receiving the Fraternity's highest honor, becoming Central Florida's 1st member of the Order of Constantine
- A Disney World riverboat dinner cruise
- Not to be outdone, it was Mayor Bill Frederick's turn to declare it "Sigma Chi Week" (are you listening, Tico?)
- A Pre-Sweetheart Ball reception by the Eta Pi House Corporation launched the successful drive for the magnificent on-campus home for the chapter
- The Mississippi State chapter was well represented when their chapter sweetheart Melissa Long was crowned our International Sweetheart and Thomas F. Bell (**Mississippi State, '35**) was chosen to lead Sigma Chi as our 54th Grand Consul

All in all, everyone left Orlando knowing they'd been part of a very special Grand Chapter!

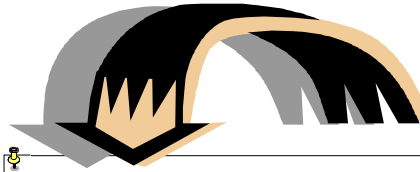
# 2003

So you see as this June approached we've got our reputation to preserve and a LOT of work to do!! Grand Chapter Chairman John Rankin (UCF, '78) has assembled an energetic and experienced team of area alums and actives to assist HQ in the preparations, but they'll need your help (and it's fun help!). We'll need as many alums as possible to participate in the Grand Chapter events, and to be goodwill ambassadors for the Central Florida area! You'll be hearing much more about each event in upcoming issues, but circle June 25 - 29 on your calendar NOW so you'll be ready for a GREAT week of Sigma Chi brotherhood!

## Grand Chapter Fundraising Update

Yep, it's going to require your generosity for us to host our Grand Chapter in the manner it deserves. The goal is to raise \$25,000 to sponsor events, provide mementos to the delegates and offer our Central Florida-area hospitality. You'll be receiving a separate mail out on this topic shortly, but the really good news is that thanks to the kindness of the alums listed below, we're already at 30% of our goal!! Please join your fellow Sigs, become a Grand Chapter sponsor and help make it the BEST one ever!

**Early Sponsors: Jerry Chicone, Bob Neel, Joe Hartman, Jim Hasely, Todd Bowers, Larry Beatty, John Rankin, Victor Woodman, David Weeks, Ron Hemke.**



Watch for exciting news from the Central Florida Alumni Chapter coming soon to a mailbox near you! Unconfirmed rumors include a new slate of events, available committee positions, philanthropic activities and . . . . . a CFAC website launch filled with membership benefits. Keep your eyes peeled for any arousal of suspicion.

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