



Phi Sigma Epsilon Delta Alumni Association

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



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Fall 2016

Save the Date - June 22-24, 2018



L to R – Dick Carpenter & Kirk Davis

As we denoted in the Spring 2016 PSE Newsletter, we chose to sponsor the next PSE Reunion in Charleston, IL, on a three-year interval, instead of the past five-year interval. We did this for you, based upon **your insistence** at the Reunion in June 2015. A number of Brothers in attendance came forward with the idea that we should have our reunions more often than every five years, because the years are starting to catch up with all of us. Therefore, please note the date at the top of this page and save it for the next PSE Reunion, which is only a year-and-a-half from this December date. Time is exponentially moving on, and I'm sad to say is overtaking us, as evidenced by those who are now Brothers Eternal, both in this issue, and in past issues.



L to R – Mike Garretson, Chris Ellis, Mike Ellis, Jerry Gotthardt, Jerry Malkowski, Karen Root & Ed Root at Banquet table

The Spring 2017 PSE Newsletter, due out in mid-May, will highlight a lot more information that you need to know before attending the June 2018 Reunion. The Board of the PSE Alumni Assn. will be meeting on March 18, 2017, at

the PSE Archives Room in Charleston, IL, and should be able to

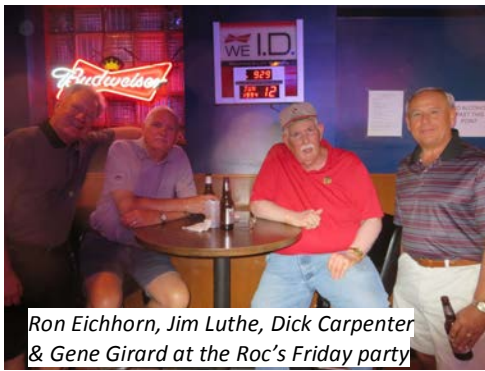
formulate some fairly concrete suggestions and ideas for this Reunion. I will then share this information with all of you through the Newsletter in mid-May 2017. As in the past, the Charleston U-Hotel will be party-central for the weekend (the rooms and facilities have already been secured for us). After the June 2015 PSE Reunion, we were flattered by the response from many attendees, who said it was the best one that they had attended in quite awhile. Heaps of praise were also directed to those responsible for the buffet dinner, both qualitatively and quantitatively, during the Saturday evening banquet and program. We finally have a facility in Charleston, IL, that is responsive to the needs and desires of groups wishing to partake of the excellent amenities that are offered. As a result, they are now sought out as a destination to host many types of local, regional and state sponsored activities. Now, to whet your appetite for the next Reunion, here are a few more pictures from the June 2015 weekend soiree.



L to R (facing camera) – Mike Snow, Jeff Estes, Jim Luthe & Chuck Behl in Hospitality Room



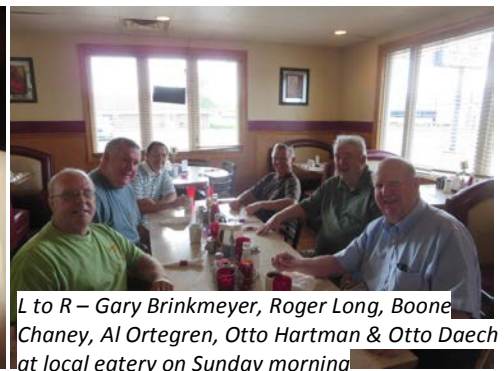
L to R – Gary Brinkmeyer & Jerry Rankin at Friday night Roc's party



Ron Eichhorn, Jim Luthe, Dick Carpenter & Gene Girard at the Roc's Friday party



Carl Benander, Scott Brown & Jerry Malkowski at Roc's Friday party



L to R – Gary Brinkmeyer, Roger Long, Boone Chaney, Al Ortegren, Otto Hartman & Otto Daech at local eatery on Sunday morning

PSE Twenty-Sixth Annual Student Awards

Well, as you can see from the title of this article, we have officially surpassed the first quarter-century of time, where the PSE Alumni Assn. has been able to financially assist children of former PSE Dads at EIU. When we undertook this challenge in 1991, we had no realistic idea of how long it would go on, or how many students it would impact.

On Sunday, August 21, 2016, the PSE Alumni Assn. once again convened to make the PSE Student Award presentation, this time to a student beginning her senior year at EIU. Prior to those activities though, we sat down in our dining room for the standard fare of luncheon items and frosted sheet cake squares. The presence of a fairly sultry and sticky Sunday precipitated the move inside, where the luncheon was served to Jim, Jan and Michelle Fechner, PSE Board Pres. Jim Luthe, PSE Board member Boone Chaney, and Gary (PSE Treas.) & Sharon Brinkmeyer. What made this presentation significant, was two-fold. This was



L to R – Michelle Fechner & Jim Fechner

a day of firsts and possibly of lasts, also.

With the presentation of a check for \$500 to Michelle Fechner, she became the first and only student within the PSE Student Awards

program, to have been awarded the maximum five hundred dollar award for all four years of her matriculation at EIU. Her record is safe for at least four more years. That is the happy part of this record-keeping. The sadder part is that she may have been the last EIU student to partake in this philanthropic enterprise that we embarked upon 25 years ago. For the last three presentations of the Student Award, Michelle has been the only recipient to receive a monetary award from PSE. If we don't receive any response to the application for a Student Award in the Spring 2017 PSE Newsletter, it will be the first time since 1991. If you know of someone either attending or planning to attend EIU (whose Dad was a Phi Sig here), make them aware of

the monetary assistance, or let us know about it, so we can follow up. And to you Michelle, Congratulations! We wish you well in your post-EIU work or additional education environment.

With the completion of the Awards program, we stepped outside for the obligatory photos to document this auspicious occasion. One of the enclosed pictures was unique for its stair-step appearance in the heights of those pictured (I generally inhabit the lower step and Jim Luthe is the top rung). Jim Fechner presented me with the 1983 PSE Composite, so that I can get a copy made of it, while Ron Eichhorn loaned me three other PSE Composites for me to get copies of. Thank you Jim and Ron!



L to R - Gary Brinkmeyer, Boone Chaney, Michelle Fechner, Jim Fechner & Jim Luthe

Following a little bit of after-dinner banter, the invitees were all off to their next itineraries for the day. Within this article, are two of those pictures from the PSE Student Award conclusion.

Brothers Eternal

The Phi Sigma Epsilon Alumni Association is once again saddened to report to you the death of a number of Brothers of the Heart from over the years. Let us however, take solace in the fact that we are better for having known them.

J. Neil Admire
Gerald L. Cavanaugh
Robert E. Durham
Charles V. Eads

William C. Eads
James L. Hanks
Loren E. Jenne
Hugh F. Stone

The PSE Website - An Update

In the Spring 2016 PSE Newsletter, I shared with you a lot of information relative to the then current status of the PSE website. We also highlighted the direction that the PSE Alumni Assn. was going to pursue, to get it accessibly operational again for all registered Brothers and those wishing to register. My last statement in the article about the website makeover stated "I'm sure more information will be forthcoming in the Fall 2016 Newsletter and who knows-it may be well underway or even completed by that time."

Well, here it is late Fall and I wish I could share a more optimistic view of where we are at right now, but I can't at this time. The Spring Newsletter article spelled out a simplistic viewpoint of the problems we were facing and a proposed solution by our retained IT guru on staff at EIU. All along, he had told us that it could be well into the Fall 2016 semester before he could delve into the upgrade or makeover, depending on the severity of the problems within the website. That assessment came to us before the state financial problems in doling out monies to the state university system literally was crippling many schools, with EIU really feeling the brunt. That dilemma, coupled with some other internal issues, sent the EIU Fall 2016 school enrollment plummeting down from a high of nearly 12,000 students some five years ago to a current level of 7000-7500 students. Since the monies were not forthcoming from both the state coffers and student tuitions, EIU has had to make many drastic financial adjustments. Those included laying off some 300-400 EIU employees, no replacement hiring for normal retirement attritions, imposing mandatory non-paid days off (about one per month) and a hiring freeze. All of these actions impacted the schedule for our IT guru at EIU, by imposing additional work requirements on him to compensate for the loss of employees.

With his increased workload, he has had to pare back his time inputs for our website upgrade.

On Sept. 9th, we heard from our IT guy that there has been progress on the new website, now having the functionality of the old site, but on a new and updated platform. A link was enclosed for Jim Luthe and me to try out. After going to the link and perusing through the new website, I put together a couple of pages of questions and comments and emailed a request for a meeting on Sept. 20th. Three days earlier, the PSE Alumni Assn. had held a meeting, where the website was the major focus of attention. On Sept. 18th, our website administrator, Tom Swanson, emailed an excellent synopsis of our website concerns based upon the Alumni Assn. meeting we had just completed. After about a month, I sent an email to our IT guy, requesting a detailing of where we were in the process and received a prompt reply. It stated that he was sorry, but had had some end of the quarter work that he had to get done. He also stated on Oct. 18th that "The last email ('Tom Swanson') I received from you guys was fantastic detail, so that makes it much easier for me to make the changes. I should have an update for you by the end of the month." On Nov. 15th, I received a further email that stated he was sorry he hadn't made more progress on the PSE new site, but that it was close. I responded that I was finishing up the Fall PSE Newsletter and would like to share some information from him for this article. I then was gone for almost a week on a Thanksgiving time visit with out-of-state family and returned with no further information to share with you at this time. So, there you go! You all now know as much as I know. I'm sure that we will be able to share much more information about the new website in the Spring 2017 PSE Newsletter and I believe it will highlight the ease of accessing and using the new PSE website.

PSE Tidbits

In early October, I received a nice email from Gary and Janie Schaefer, who reside in Madison, WI. It was filled with the pride of being new grandparents, for the first time. But that wasn't the whole story! So now as Paul Harvey used to exclaim, "here is the rest of the story". The first line of the email stated "Thought you'd get a kick out of this little tidbit, as it may be 'a first' in Phi Sig history, that a baby gets named after a fraternity nickname." You see, Gary's fraternity nom de plume was "Ollie", and over the years, the proper name almost gets lost to the nickname. It seems that their son PJ and wife Laura had had a baby boy on September 14th, and named him "Oliver" (after "Ollie", aka Gary Schaefer). Janie added that "Ollie" was very much flattered and touched by this gesture. The baby's middle name is "John" (after

Laura's dad), so Gary and Janie plan on calling their grandson "Ollie John", so as not to confuse him with Grandpa "Ollie." Janie's closing line shared the admonition that if you have any grandmotherly advice, please pass it on. Her new appetite for reading all kinds of books (lots of how-to's, I bet) has prompted her to exclaim that some of those are "kind of scary." Congratulations, Ollie and Janie!

On a sadder note, we regret to inform you of the recent passing of two prominent wives of well-known Phi Sig fraternity brothers in Illinois, one from the northwest Chicago suburbs and the other from an area just northeast of the St. Louis

metropolitan area. Joan (Davolio) McCoy, wife of Roger McCoy ("Mac"-'64), passed away on Aug. 11th of this year after a long battle with multiple cancers. They were long-time residents of Schaumburg, but had moved to nearby Streamwood several years ago, where they were mired in retirement friendships and activities. More recently, we were saddened by the passing of Lynn (Ackerman) Granger, the much-beloved wife of Bill Granger ("Grange"-'69) on Sept. 13th of this year. After being diagnosed with AML (leukemia) in Sept. 2015, she fought the good fight, alternating between bouts of good and bad days, but always choosing to focus on the good. They will both be greatly missed, both having attended the PSE Reunion in June 2015. The PSE Alumni Assn. extends it's sincerest condolences to both Roger and Bill, and to their extended families.

The re-creation of the annual Phi Sig Camp-In, this year being the 44th anniversary of it's beginning, was once again held at the Whitetail Crossing Cabins near Findlay, IL on Sept.16th through the 18th. The normal crew of Phi Sigs and their wives (as it applies) made the sojourn this year and welcomed a new recruit,

while at the same time missed two other couples and two singles that were not able to make it. Duayne Nyckel was our new visitor for the weekend, and after experiencing the fun we were all having, exclaimed that he would be back again next year. Those missing this year, for various reasons, were Paul & Betty Klopfenstein, Mike Goodman & friend Jill, John Ziebarth and Jerry Nyckel. The date for next year's 45th anniversary get-together is set for Sept. 22-24, 2017, and that information was shared with everyone via email the week after we all returned home. Most replies were optimistic that they would be there next year, but we usually don't get our firm committals until next summer. If everyone shows up, we will probably have to do some jockeying of housing rooms to get everyone in, so we're not inviting any more prospective overnight visitors at this time. However, as we have always proclaimed, we encourage any visitors to come over for the day (Saturday) to either golf and/or spend the day visiting and partaking of the famous Saturday evening fresh Fish Fry and the assorted condiment foods, fruits salads and desserts. It don't get much better than that. See everybody next year!