



Phi Sigma Epsilon Delta Alumni Association



Vol. 18 No. 1

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Spring 2008

Newsletter & Website Update

As most of you are aware, we have finally, after several false starts, published our first electronic version of the newsletter. There were many problems with bad e-mail addresses that prevented some of you from getting notification about the newsletter. We are working on a plan to end that problem going forward. Please keep in mind that under our current system, we need accurate information.

Having taken the first step in modernization, your board of directors decided at the February 18, 2008 meeting to continue the process. Most significantly, we have decided to eliminate the printed copy of the newsletter within 2 years (sooner if possible). We have agreed to publish a Spring newsletter each May and a Fall newsletter each November. Our reasons for this change are several. First, and perhaps most important, it is the wave of the future and is a far more efficient means of distribution. Second is the cost of printing and postage coupled with the manual labor involved in folding, sealing and placing postage. At the present time, approximately 42% of you have provided us with an e-mail address. We are sure there are more who simply prefer to not share the address for fear of receiving even more spam. Once the conversion is made, keep in mind that we do

not have to have your e-mail address. In fact, you do not need an e-mail address to access the newsletter. You will simply go to the website (www.phisigdelta.com) and read the newsletter online or print it and hold it in your hands to read it. For those without a computer, we feel that virtually everyone knows someone who has one or can access one through the library or other public venue. As we move forward in this endeavor, we will keep you updated via this publication.

On a related note, we have recently retained the services of a new webmaster, Jeff Tate, son of brother John R. Tate (our newest board member). Jeff has proposed some exciting changes to the website. After discussion at our most recent meeting, Jeff is preparing a formal proposal for your consideration and it is our hope to give him authorization to proceed in the next several months. Among features under consideration is one that will allow you to register on the site and update your personal information as needed. We are also looking at a bulletin board feature that will allow us to announce things like golf outings and reunions outside of the newsletter itself. Stay tuned for more information on our new, dynamic website.

Phi Sig Open Golf Outing May 31, 2008

By Tom Swanson

Tired of winter and butt deep snow? There is reason for hope. The annual PSE Golf Outing is scheduled for Saturday, May 31, 2008, with tee times starting at 12:00 P.M. We will be playing at Minne Monesse Golf Club in Grant Park, Illinois. Directions can be gotten from Tom Swanson.

Those of you who played at Minne in the past have seemed to enjoy the relaxed atmosphere at the course and the lack of ball busting rangers trying to spoil the enjoyment of the day. The owner advises me that they have enjoyed our group in the past and that we are actually welcome back. Of course they also have me as a member so their standards are pretty low. *The course does require soft spikes and prefers shirts with collars.*

I decided to eliminate the chintzy prizes this year. We'll all simply go out and play our own ball and have a fun, noncompetitive round of golf. Of course for those of you who simply cannot golf without some form of competition, side bets are acceptable.

For those of you who like to arrive early, they do serve a limited breakfast and lunch menu in the clubhouse and they do have

a driving range (albeit across the road).

The cost this year is \$35.00. This includes golf, cart and the food and beverage at the social gathering that follows. More on that later.

I need your reservation/payment no later than May 23. Send your payment to:

Tom Swanson
11204 N. 14000 E. Rd.
Grant Park, IL 60940
(E-mail: Tswan60940@aol.com).

Questions?? Call me at (815) 465-6055 or e-mail.

We will be having a Board meeting during the after golf social gathering at my house – all are encouraged to participate.

PARTY TIME: After golf, we will retreat to my farm. For those who have been there before, the corn crib (also known as Farm Dog's room) is gone so we have to pee somewhere else. Pizza, beer and whatever else my wife makes will be served.

Looking forward to seeing you guys.

Donations to PSE Archives

Since the last Newsletter in December 2007, the PSE Alumni Assn. has once again been entrusted with several donations for the PSE Archives room that is presently undergoing construction (see related article in Newsletter). These have come from as far away as Phoenix, AZ to as close as Charleston, IL itself.

The first donation came from Floyd Leonard ("Squirrel"), who lives and works in the Phoenix, AZ area, and according to his enclosed note, was prompted by the update article in the Fall 2007 Newsletter. He had been carrying these articles within his personal possessions and finally decided that they needed a permanent repository, where they could be viewed by anybody in a setting of other different donations with a similar history – that is, that they were all treasured keepsakes of members of Phi Sigma Epsilon fraternity - Delta Chapter, at EIU in Charleston, IL since its inception in 1930 until its demise in 1986. These donations consisted of one 8" miniature paddle favor with the PSE crest and Delta Chapter emblazoned on the front and Greek letters PSE, Valentine Ball, 1970, on the back, complete with a red and white hanging cord from the top of the paddle. The second item was a Phi Sigma Epsilon Information Booklet with the PSE crest on the front center cover and 17 pages of information ranging from "The Origin of Greek Letter Fraternities" to "Financial Obligations" and "Additional Information" included within 15 subject headings. Floyd's final donation was his 1970 Eastern Illinois University "PSE" ring that his mother proudly bought for him for his projected graduation date. It is the gold Eastern degree ring with a green oval center stone and the Greek letters for PSE angularly traveling across the long part of the oval and is in gorgeous condition.

The local donation came from Chuck Titus ('64 - "Senator"),

a current history faculty member at EIU, and consisted of six different items. Included was 6" tall, white ceramic mug with a handle and the colored PSE crest with black Old English "Phi Sigma Epsilon" oveled over the top of the crest. Never seen one before - very unique! The second item was an 8" Pilsner-type glass favor, from the 50th Anniversary celebration that was held in 1980 at the Mattoon Ramada Inn. If you were there, you'll never forget the terrible weather of that evening, complete with a leaking roof onto our banquet tables that were set up for probably some 150 Brothers and guests. The glass has a gold-painted PSE crest decal on one side that has "Phi Sigma Epsilon" in gold, oveled over the crest and "50th Anniversary" horizontally below the crest. The third item was a "Pledge Manual" for Phi Sigma Epsilon with the crest on the front center, a 22-page manual that originally belonged to Mike Strong, according to the information cover page (page 2). Two similar copies of the program for the 66th Anniversary celebration in 1996 comprise the fourth item donated, while a red, leather-bound "Spring Formal" program for the "White Tea Rose Formal" held at the Holiday Inn in Effingham, IL, on Saturday, May 4, 1963, was the fifth item. Information inside listed Fraternity Officers (Bob Hilligoss was President), Chaperones, Honored Guests and Formal Committee members and a red and white cord outlined one side. The final donated item is a 4" x 6" photo from one of the early 90's South Reunions (St. Louis area) taken at Bob Hilligoss's restaurant showing about 25 different Phi Sigs that had gotten together to "live in the past".

Thank you Floyd and Chuck once again, for entrusting your Phi Sig memorabilia to the safe keeping to the Phi Sig Archives. Now, you and all Phi Sigs, come by and see it this Fall.

PSE Archives Room Progress Report

As of May 1, 2008, the Archives "room-in-progress" report has taken several steps forward and maybe one step backward. It is not where I hoped it would be at this time, but it is on a schedule that is taking it to the next logical improvement. From the Fall 2007 Newsletter article, it was noted that the main room construction had been completed. In the first week of February, all of the electrical circuitry for both the Archives room and the rest of the garage expansion was completed. With that being completed, my wife and I spent a month in Florida, from mid-February until mid-March. Upon our return, the insulation contractors were contacted and arrangements made for them to completely insulate all roof and floor decks with high R-value spray-on open-cell foam insulation, while all the walls on both floors were insulated with spray-on cellulose insulation. That was all completed by the end of the second week of April, so now I have been involved in all the cleanup required from the completion of the insulation work. With several interludes of travel in between then and now (couldn't miss the granddaughter's 1st birthday celebration in Lincoln, NE, grandson's 7th birthday in Cedar Rapids, IA and then 5 days in Las Vegas - hooking up with Tim Mash), I will soon start on all the different wall-coverings throughout the garage. Some walls are getting slat-board sheeting (accommodates shelving) in 4' x 8' sheets, some are getting 4' x 8' sheets of 12" spaced reverse batten board panels (similar to exterior walls) and the rest are getting 1/2" plywood sheathing or scrapped out 1" thickness tongue and groove flooring plywood. In any case, there will be ample surfaces for hanging or displaying Phi Sig memorabilia that has been donated, not including the free-standing display cases that will also show their wares. The slanted, almost 45-degree pitch ceilings are also getting their own style of covering, as they will all receive tongue and groove, assorted length car siding. This is 8" wide boarding that is made to look like a knotty-pine surface similar to what you might see in a rustic-style vacation cabin, especially in northern latitudes.

My hope that the Archives room would be done by May has obviously not come to fruition, but the Homecoming weekend of

October 17-19, 2008, looks to be a good compromise for getting the work done and the items on display. Since there will be no other Newsletters coming out before Homecoming, I will try to use the PSE website as a medium for disseminating relative information (including pictures) as work progresses. The website address is: (www.phisigdelta.com) to access this and all information relevant to the Phi Sigma Epsilon Alumni Assn., Delta Chapter, Eastern Illinois University. As stated in the front page article about the website update, this is the address where all Newsletters can be accessed from here on out, whether you still receive a hard copy of the Newsletter or not.

E-mail Addresses

Duayne A. Nyckel – dndnyckel@yahoo.com
Craig A. Nelson – craiganelson@earthlink.net
Gene G. Girard – k3949g@embargmail.com
Royce L. Reed – lreed127@insightbb.com
Floyd G. Leonard – fg33leonard@aol.com
Richard L. Ireland – prireco@msn.com

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.

Robert H. Scherer

PSE Tidbits

It doesn't seem possible that it's been three years since we celebrated the 75th anniversary of the PSE Alumni Assn. with a Reunion in Charleston, IL. More importantly, with only two years to go until the 80th anniversary comes up, the PSE Board of Directors has directed the implementation of preliminary planning for a Reunion to highlight that future achievement. Stay tuned for further information about this expectation and if you would like to share any information or ideas with the Board about content, by all means contact us, by email or snail-mail.

Homecoming Day this year is Saturday, October 18, 2008, with the EIU Panthers taking on Southeast Missouri University. Homecoming Day is also the date for the annual Phi Sigma Epsilon Alumni Assn. meeting, typically held at my home (Gary Brinkmeyer) at 12 Noon. Why not plan on attending both the Eastern festivities and the Alumni meeting, and while you're here, get a close-up view of the new PSE Archives Room.

50 going on 20 for 6 – Some kind of riddle or anagram, you ask. No, it's actually the meat of the story for 6 friends (including 4 fraternity brothers), who decided to celebrate their 50th birthdays with a fishing trip to Canada (Ontario) and pretending they were 20 years old again. In June 2007, Bill Barker ("BBF"-'79), Dave Panicucci ("Cooch" - '81), Larry Brown ("Daisy" - '80) and Ted Smith ("Casanova" -'80), as well as two high school friends, spent 5 days fishing after flying into an isolated area of Ontario's famous waters. And not only fishing! The air was rampant with stories of high school days, Phi Sig days and what was going on in their lives, now that most of their kids were out on their own - and they ran out of beer two days early. Big surprise! Now, if they could only open a home equity line of credit to buy more of Canada's famously expensive beer, eh! Happy Birthdays!

The winningest coach in Lake Land College (Mattoon, IL) athletic history was inducted into the Lake Land Athletics Hall of Fame on May 1, 2008. Having already been inducted into other Halls of Fame, those being Bartonville Limestone High School, Illinois High School Baseball Coaches Assn., Eastern Illinois University and the NJCAA, Gene Creek ('63), now a retired baseball coach after 34 seasons, can look back on quite a legacy. His record was 1145 wins, 10 conference championships, 21 state and sectional titles and in 1988, a genuine shot at the Junior College World Series. Seven of his former players have gone on to the Majors. Now a 66-year-old Methodist pastor, he lives in nearby Neoga, IL and surely follows the exploits of his old team.

The annual Phi Sig CampIn, (previously a CampOut in rain-soaked tents and campsites), was enjoyed immensely at the new site called Whitetail Crossing Cabins, near Shelbyville, IL. Four individual cabins, sporting 13 separate bedrooms, provided the backdrop for the mid-September soiree, a welcome relief from the previous sweltering days of late July - early August. The facilities were great and at half the expense of our previous housing, is a welcome budget relief. This year, the CampIn is September 19-21 and everyone is welcome to attend for visiting or golf. Contact us!

I recently (November 2007) received a picture of the gravesite of Burl Ives (yes, Brother Burl) from Sam Taber, who resides in Charleston, IL. He had visited the Mound Cemetery in Hunt City, IL, a small town in Jasper County near Newton, IL, where the final resting place for Burl Ives is located below a large and impressive headstone.

You have all probably heard the talk that Burl was a Phi Sig, but it really is true. After starting school at Eastern in 1927, he became involved with a local chapter of men that was called Delta Lambda Sigma in 1928. This group was the predecessor to Phi Sigma Epsilon, which was officially organized on the campus of EIU on February 21, 1930. I have a 1929 Warbler yearbook that shows Burl with the local group and a 1930 Warbler that shows the first composite picture of the fledgling PSE group, including again a picture of Burl. At the advice of then Eastern president, Dr. Livingston Lord, he became what has been termed "EIU's Favorite Dropout", and was urged to drop out of school and follow a career in music entertainment. Having dropped out in 1930, he hitch-hiked to California and the rest, as they say, is history.

The impressive headstone, with his iconic likeness etched

into it, states the following: Burl Ives – One of America's legendary entertainers, whose career spanned more than a half century crossing all international borders. Equally at home before the royalty of Europe and the farm folk of Midwestern USA. A performer whose unique style adapted to all media. Literacy, Radio, Movies, Recordings, Night Clubs, Broadway and Concert Stage. Carl Sandburg called him "The mightiest ballad singer of this or any other century". He lives on through his art. June 14, 1909 - April 14, 1995.

Two years ago while losing my "winnings" in Las Vegas, I returned home to find out a few weeks later that Tim Mash ('68 - "Masher") had moved to Vegas from California and was there while I had been there. Several phone conversations ensued over the next two years to bring me to the time two weeks ago, when I again visited Las Vegas. This time I had made arrangements to hook up with Tim, even though I hadn't rented a car.

On the afternoon of Tuesday, May 6, 2008, Tim and his beautiful wife Nadine, met my wife Sharon, and I near the Bellagio Hotel on the main strip. Since we both had other schedules to maintain, we decided we had time to visit over lunch at Blondie's (in the Miracle Mile mall shops) and then walk down to New York, New York, a Las Vegas representation of New York icons.

I had taken a size XL PSE Alumni shirt to present to Tim (thinking that we ALL have put on a few pounds since EIU), but had to return home with that shirt. Tim follows a very strict and regimented exercise regime that has kept him at 140-145 pounds of lean physique with a 30-inch waist. I was sick with envy when I saw him. Not that he doesn't drink beer. He still enjoys it pretty much every day and especially on Saturdays, where you can find him (or he and Nadine) trying to figure out the horses at a nearby parlor. The years of teaching and successful football coaching have also been kind to Tim's hairline. I don't think he has lost a single hair and I saw little evidence of any gray hairs.

Tim has now retired from teaching/coaching, having directed excellent football programs in Murphysboro, IL, Rock Island, IL, Downers Grove, IL, Topeka, KS and Taft, CA. Many of his teams played in post-season state competitions with mostly winning results. His hunger for football has not been diminished by retirement, as he still follows it pretty closely. Tim's address is: Tim Mash, 8204 Antler Pines Ct., Las Vegas, NV, 89149 (702) 396-9530.



Tim Mash, May 2008 - Looking Good!

New Addresses

- Royce L. Reed** – 4086 Newbury Dr., Springfield, IL 62711 (217) 726-6020
Craig A. Nelson – 1970 Lake Clay Dr., Chesterfield, MO 63017 (636) 532-1440
David A. Nyberg – 128 Golden Gate Pt. - #401B, Sarasota, FL 34236
Stephen J. Houghton – 1517 Myrtle, Danville, IL 61832 (217) 799-0170
Richard L. Ireland – 1346 S. Duesquesne Circle, Aurora, CO 80018 (303) 360-7758
David L. Dickerson – 4663 44th St., Holland, MI 49423 (616) 688-7366

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL STUDENT AWARDS

It hardly seems possible that 17 years have gone by already since the inception of the PSE Alumni Assn. Student Awards in 1991, but this year's Awards will mark the EIGHTEENTH year that we have given financial assistance.

As you may well know by now, the Phi Sigma Epsilon Alumni Association has embarked on an annual Student Awards program to financially assist identified children of former Phi Sigs (P.S.E., that is), Delta Chapter at Eastern Illinois University. The Association has been able to award grants totalling over \$46,000 the past 17 years.

With the receipt of this Newsletter, eligibility is open for you to submit to the P.S.E. Alumni Association, the names of children who will be attending EIU in Fall 2008 or those already in school as full-time undergraduates.

The cutoff date for submission of the Student Award Information questionnaire form in this Newsletter is July 1, 2008. Upon receipt and verification of children attending or about to attend EIU, notification will be forwarded to you regarding the Student Award. These awards will be presented on Sunday, August 24, 2008, in Charleston. Only one monetary award will be granted per family. This monetary grant is free of all payback and has no provisions as to how it must be used. Additionally, it is restricted by age to those 25 or younger and the PSE Board also reserves the right to make discretionary exceptions to the above-noted guidelines on a case-by-case basis.

Further inquiry may be addressed to the attention of the Phi Sigma Epsilon Alumni Association, P.O. Box 931, Charleston, IL 61920. Please be sure to send your address and telephone number.

STUDENT AWARDS INFORMATION

ALUMNUS INFO.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone (____) _____
E-mail Address: _____
Year Graduated from EIU _____
Years Attended EIU-19__ to 19__

PHI SIGMA EPSILON INFO.

Pledge Class Year _____
Active Member-19__ to 19__

STUDENT INFO.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone (____) _____ SSN. _____
Projected EIU Start Date (Semester) _____
Projected EIU Graduation _____

*Phi Sig Golf Open
May 31, 2008
(Article Inside)
Homecoming
October 18, 2008*

Phi Sigma Epsilon
Delta Alumni Assn.
P.O. Box 931
Charleston, IL 61920

