



Phi Sigma Epsilon Delta Alumni Association



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Gary Brinkmeyer – Editor psebrink@mchsi.com

Spring 2009

PSE Website News

Important To Read Important To Read Important To Read Important To Read

By Tom Swanson

The time has come and it is really here. The new and improved Phi Sig website is now available online at **PhiSigDelta.com**. With the introduction of the new site there will be changes to the way we do things. In this article we will attempt to explain how the new site works as well as the changes you can expect.

Our website will have two types of users. The first will be the unregistered user. Members in this category may go to the website at the address above and access the newsletter. They will be able to read and/or print the newsletter. They will also be able to view the calendar and pledge class listings. **They will not however, have access to any other part of the website. Further, they will not receive notification when a new newsletter is posted to the site.**

The second category of user (and we hope the most popular) is the registered user. Registration is a relatively simple, two-part process. When accessing the site, on the right side of the middle, you will see a "Welcome" section. At the bottom of that section, simply click on "Signup". You will be asked to certify that you are over the age of 13 and then transferred to the Registration page. The top portion of this form is required information and must be entered. While you are required to enter your e-mail address, you do have the option of hiding it from others. It is important for you to understand that we do not share your information with anyone other than registered users of the site. Be sure to check the mailing list box so that you receive notification when there are important postings to the site (i.e. Newsletters). The bottom portion of the page contains optional entries. You may enter as much or as little as you desire. Once you have completed the form click on the "Register" button at the bottom of the page. Your registration will then be submitted to the site administrator who will verify that you are in fact one of us. At that point he will approve your registration and by signing-in with your user ID and password you will have access to all parts of the site.

You will find the site itself relatively straightforward. The Forums part of the site allows you to initiate or participate in discussions with other members about topics of common interest. While we are not into censorship, the site administrator does reserve the right to discontinue forum discussions deemed inappropriate for the site. The Calendar portion allows for the posting of dates of significance to members. Under Submit News, you

have the opportunity to submit news items that may be of interest to other members. Submitted news items go to the site administrator for review before posting. You will also find a Gallery section containing pictures that have been submitted and posted. Under the Members portion of the site, you will find a listing of all registered members including the information contained on their registration page. In addition, we have created a Member Search area. By clicking on this link you will go to the search screen. Here, you may search by name, state, city, pledge class or members who have posted a photo. If you were taking a trip to a certain city or state you could search for registered members in those locales. We have also created a Member Archive. This contains the entire list of all known members, along with whatever information we have for them. This area also has a search feature.

Feel free to explore the site – we don't think you can break it. If you have suggestions for improvements, send your comments to Tom Swanson, site administrator.

Now for the changes. **This is the last printed newsletter that you will receive from us.** All future newsletters will be posted to the site. If you are a registered user, you will receive an e-mail notification when a new issue hits the newsstand. All communications from the association will be posted to the site and we do have the ability to alert you when there are postings. In the past, we maintained a database of all members. We relied upon you to update your information so that we could change as necessary. For the most part you did a good job of advising us of address changes but a terrible job keeping e-mail addresses up to date. Now it is your responsibility. Unless you update your profile on the site we will not have current information and you will not receive notices. The cost of postage and printing made this decision easy for us. However, we firmly believe that this form of communication is the current state of the art and hope you utilize and enjoy all of the site's features.

The annual Homecoming meeting will be held in the PSE Archives Room at my home in Charleston (actually, the second story of my garage), on Saturday, October 17, 2009, at Noon. The progress report on that facility, is that it should be completely finished by that time and ready for your browsing enjoyment.

June 12, 2010 – Save This Date

Just short of four years ago (June 2005), we were wrapping up the 75th Year (Diamond Anniversary) Reunion that was held here in Charleston. At that time, five years seemed like a long time away before we might have another Reunion. Well folks, that five years is now down to one year and the consensus from the February 2009 PSE Board meeting, is that we should plan another Phi Sig Reunion. With that directive in place, the Phi Sigma Epsilon 80th Anniversary Reunion will be held on June 12, 2010. Actually, the June 11-13, 2010 time period will be Reunion weekend. It will again be held at the Worthington Inn in Charleston and as in the past, we will also have a Friday night get-together at the Panther Paw (formerly Styx). The Reunion Banquet will be held on Saturday, June 12, 2010, in the same facilities that we have had in the past, but with one big change. There is a new catering company in Charleston that is all the rave right now, because of the exquisite quality and selection of their foods. It is called 2 Flowers Catering and we have been able to secure their services for our Reunion Banquet with a

monetary deposit for that evening. We are also working on a special program for the evening activity and if it should come to fruition, it will be worth the price of admission, as they say.

Those are the highlights so far. Of course, with any endeavor of this magnitude, there are a multitude of details that still need to be worked out. That is why we have this next year ahead of us. As has been noted several times throughout this Newsletter, this is the **FINAL** hardcopy Newsletter to be mailed out. To keep up with the planning activities that are completed and relayed to you in the future Newsletters (Fall 2009 and Spring 2010), you will have to access them on our website (www.PhiSigDelta.com). This will even include Reunion registration next Spring.

So now before you put it off, thinking you can do it later, save this date – **June 12, 2010**. With each Reunion, we say this may be the last one – this one may truly be that one! Don't miss out!

NEW PSE Board Member

At the February 2009 Board meeting, John R. Tate ("Rick" or "Tater" - '74) was nominated to the PSE Alumni Assn. Board of Directors. John's son, Jeff, is the PSE website designer, with whom we have been working in assimilating everything that you see on the website. And, so as not to feel left out from any initial duties, "Tater" has agreed to take over all the address database information that Tom Swanson has so capably handled since the early '90's. Although that information will now not feed into the production of address labels for paper newsletters, it is none-the-less still very important, because we maintain that address composite database on the website. As stated previously

though, you can only access that address information and many other features of the website, if you are fully registered. Tom Swanson has agreed to continue lending his computer expertise, by serving as the site administrator for the website, as delineated in the article on the front page of this Newsletter. I look forward to working with "Tater" now and we thank "Swanny" for all of his past years of effort in maintaining and updating our member information composite list. I especially thank him for dealing with me and my computer and technology xenophobia. Speaking of that, does anybody out there have a rotary-dial cell phone that can only make a phone call? Contact me if you do.

Correction

In the Fall 2008 Newsletter, I wrote a small article about the Thomas A. Grud Scholarship, alluding to the fact that it was being awarded to a local student at EIU. I stated that this scholarship was started in memory of Tom, who was killed in Viet Nam on Christmas Day in 1965. I was relying on my memory to pin down that date, when I should have relied on factual information that was available to me.

After the Newsletter was sent out I received several responses to this small article, pointing out the fact that I had erred on the date of Tom's death. The day I listed (Christmas Day) was correct, but the year was 1967 instead of 1965. My apologies!

On the plus side – it's gratifying to know that the Newsletter is being read thoroughly.

PSE Golf Outing

The annual PSE golf outing will be held Saturday, May 30, 2009 at Minne Monesse Golf Club in Grant Park, IL. We have tee times starting at noon. Those of you who have played with us at this course in the past have found it to be a relaxing, enjoyable day. The cost of the outing is \$40.00, which includes golf, cart and refreshments at the social gathering following golf. After golf, but before all the lies have been told, we will adjourn to Swanny's farm for beer, pizza and whatever other treats my wife decides to provide. For information, contact Tom Swanson ASAP at (815) 465-6055 or at tswan60940@aol.com. Come join the fun.

E-mail Addresses

Thomas W. Andres – invest@consolidated.net
Donald G. Bellefeuille – coach20909@yahoo.com
Gary L. Schaefer – glscubs@gmail.com
Charles L. Henry, Jr. – clh3@comcast.net
Rick Schwebke – richardschwebke@comcast.net
Joe A. Arro – bjarro1@aol.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.

Donald W. Kirchhofer
Charles H. Ridey
Robert F. Lathrop

Edward C. Gates
Patric L. Fairbanks
Greg Kochendorfer

PSE Alumni Association Future

By Tom Swanson

At the most recent alumni association meeting, a lengthy and sometimes emotional discussion was held regarding the future of our organization. In this article we will attempt to present to the membership the essence of those discussions.

As alumni associations go, we are something of an oddity. Most such groups are led by the older members initially, but are subsequently replaced as younger members join the group. As our underlying organization no longer exists, we have no influx of new members. The current leadership of our association has, with just a couple of exceptions, been in place for 20 plus years. This creates several potential problems. First, is the burn-out factor. If one does any function or task for an extended period of time, complacency is a risk, as well as simply tiring of the job. Secondly, having the same leadership over an extended period of time means the group is not being infused with new, fresh ideas. Neither bodes well for the continuing viability of the organization.

We have a situation which cannot, by definition, be changed. Essentially, when the last of our current members is gone, there is no more organization. As a leadership group however, we feel it is time to solicit our membership for involvement

by guys who have not been involved to date. The current group has about run out of gas. Without an influx of new members on the board, the association as we now know it, will disappear within a couple of years. As long as we still have members alive, there will be a "group". However, those things that many of you tell us you enjoy, such as the newsletter, website, student awards and reunions, will cease.

Being a member of the board does not involve a major commitment of time. We meet anywhere from 2-4 times per year and some of our meetings are tied to social activities such as our annual "Camp-in" in Shelbyville. While we encourage attendance at all meetings, we do not penalize someone missing a meeting(s). What we do, in a meeting that usually runs a couple of hours, is drink beer, eat brownies and exchange ideas about how to best serve our alumni association. Planning a reunion every 5 years is a big part of what we do. We actually start 2-3 years before the actual event. We need you and encourage you to become involved. Anyone interested in participating is encouraged to contact President Jim Luthe at (812) 881-9025 or at suluthe@shawneelink.net.

PSE Tidbits

We are sad to report to you the death of Nancy Goodman, who was married to Mike Goodman ("Nui" - '68) and lived in Pewaukee, WI. She struggled for many years with lupus-related maladies, but always fought the good fight. "Nui" and Nancy were a part of the PSE summer CampOut crew for many years and even the Camp-in group for a few years, before having to give it up because of health concerns. She is survived by "Nui" and two sons, as well as three grandchildren. We extend our sympathy to "Nui" and family.

If you watched the Inaugural Parade for President Barack Obama on Tuesday, January 20, 2009, you probably saw a myriad of different groups assembled and performing in honor of the new president. Although most of you didn't realize it, there was one of our own Phi Sigs in participation on the parade route. Randy Rothrock ('69) participated within the group from Arcola, IL, that was introduced on national TV as "the world-famous Lawn Rangers from Amazing Arcola," although they have also sported the moniker "The Precision Lawn Mower Pushing Drill Team" from Arcola, IL. Having participated in parades all over the country for some 25 years, the group of some 50-60 members, all wear masks like the Lone Ranger did on TV. In a visit to Arcola as a guest of a local festival, Clayton Moore (the original masked Lone Ranger on TV) wore his trademark mask and it was then incorporated into the Lawn Rangers attire shortly after the group was formed. Randy stated "We're just out to have a good time," but Washington D.C. tight parade security stymied their use of any alcoholic beverages. Paraphrasing Randy again, "those 12 hours were the longest period of time that our group has gone without drinking during a parade exhibition" and "it was colder than h__." Oh well! We must all sacrifice. Enjoyed the performance of a unique group of revelers.

Don't call me Mr. Mayor anymore, Frank happily lamented with the end of his term on May 4, 2009. "Frank", is Frank Mathon ('69), who recently completed a 4-year term as the Mayor of Taylorville, IL, after having served 16 years as an alderman for the same city. Now permanently retired, Frank related to me that right out of college he began his teaching career in Morris, IL (8 years), followed by an 11-year stint in the family plumbing business with his Dad, back in Taylorville. A classroom setting in Niantic-Harristown became the next step for Frank, as he taught there for 6 years in charge of the building trades classes. His final move was the opportunity to take over the same building

trades program at the Taylorville HS, where he completed 11 more years of service. Frank traded in two years of accrued sick time for credit towards retirement and after a total of 25 years of teaching, decided that it was time to hang it up. Frank and wife Pam (Barth) have been married 40 years and are enjoying time nearby with their two children and two grandchildren.

In a ceremony scheduled for November 14, 2009, Don Neece ("Beast" - '65) will be inducted into the EIU Athletics Hall of Fame, on the same day that Eastern will host the University of Tennessee-Martin in football. Quoting our local newspaper, "Neece (1962-1965) was a top wrestler for the Panthers in the early 1960's, winning the NAIA National Championship in 1965 at the 190 lbs. weight class. He won the Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (IIAC) championship in 1964 competing at 177 lbs. and placed second in the IIAC championships two other times. He was a 1965 first-team NAIA All-American. Neece is retired after a long career as a teacher, coach and athletic administrator at East Alton-Wood River Community High School." Congratulations Don, on this upcoming honor.

PSE Address Changes

Keith A. Heston - 111 Jeffrey Pl., Smyrna, GA 30082

William R. McMullen - 527 Locust St., Minonk, IL 61760

Dennis E. Teufel - 9071 N. 53rd Pl., Paradise Valley, AZ 85253

Alpha D. Perfetti - 2040 Ashley River Rd. - Apt. 202,
Charleston, SC 29407

Charles L. Henry, Jr. - 6599 Sylva Beach Rd., Caseville,
MI 48725

James F. Rankin - 1001 S. Evergreen Ave., Kankakee, IL
60901

Duane J. Beck - 1056 Willow Rd., Macomb, IL 61455

Greg A. Brucker - 320 Lake Dr., Sibley, IL 61773

Sam A. Moore - 15986 Pebble Beach Rd., Bloomington, IL
61704. (309) 820-8931

Donald G. Bellefeuille - 20909 Redblush Lane, Land O' Lakes,
FL 34637. (813) 929-9089

Larry E. Brown - 2825 1st St., Monroe, WI 53566.

NINETEENTH ANNUAL STUDENT AWARDS

As you have seen throughout the rest of this Newsletter, there are some winds of change in the air. And, at least for this upcoming 2009-2010 school year at EIU, the changes will also include the PSE Alumni Assn. Student Awards.

Like many other individuals, groups or companies throughout the U.S., this economic reshuffling has affected our group too. Fortunately, we have two-thirds of the Alumni Assn's savings locked into a 2-year CD (4.14% until July 2010) that gives us a monthly check going into our checking account. This is the money that we have always used for our year-to-year expenses, including the disbursement of monies as part of our Student Awards. Unfortunately, the other one-third of the Alumni Assn's savings is invested in a mutual fund that in the past, has done quite well. I probably don't have to tell most of you what has happened to that area of growth within the last year. That area of concern, along with the expenses involved in the transition to the new Phi Sig website (www.PhiSigDelta.com) and initial expenses needed to reserve facilities for the upcoming 2010 Reunion (see separate article), has prompted the following actions.

At the February 2009 PSE Board meeting, the following changes were made to the PSE Alumni Assn. Student Awards program:

1) There will be no Student Awards Information form within this Spring Newsletter, as there typically is. The three EIU students that received \$500 Financial Awards last year will be the only awardees for the upcoming school year and they will see that Award shrunk to \$300 (provided they are still attending EIU as a full-time student). Verification of that status will still be required by those parents and EIU. The program will not be expanded to include any other potential candidates for this year, unless unforeseen circumstances allow the PSE Board to modify this change.

2) There will be no Phi Sigma Epsilon Alumni Assn. Awards Luncheon at the Southeast Park pavilion for the formal presenta-

tion of Student Award checks. But, we will have a cookout at my house in Charleston on Sunday, August 23, 2009, at Noon, so that we can distribute the check awards and take pictures. It's a little less formal, but it still accomplishes the goal and saves us the cost of the catered luncheon. Parents are still welcome at this more informal presentation. I will keep you apprised of the details by email or phone calls.

3) These changes are in effect initially for this upcoming school year and are caused by unusual circumstances that may only be reflective of a one-year period of time. If we determine as a Board within the next year that we can return to the previous monetary commitment that we have always had, we will probably reconsider the above-described limited course of action.

With the anticipated disbursement of this year's PSE Alumni Assn. Student Awards in mid-August, we will crack the \$48,000 plateau for total monies distributed to qualified students since 1991. And with any kind of a turnaround in the economy, we hope to be able to maximize the per student award back up to the \$500 dollar amount. Now, since this is the last hardcopy of the PSE Newsletter, it will become incumbent upon those Phi Sig parents who have students at EIU to obtain their information and forms from the online edition of the Newsletter. The front page article in this Newsletter explains to you how you can access the Newsletter online and how you can register yourself to maximize the benefits to you of the new Phi Sig website. The Spring Newsletter will typically be out for your perusal in mid-to-late May, while the Fall edition will be available in mid-to-late November. Remember, we will not initiate any contacts as a reminder to you to get your student's information in to the PSE Alumni Assn.

Further inquiries may be addressed to the attention of the Phi Sigma Epsilon Alumni Assn., P.O. Box 931, Charleston, IL 61920 or email me at psebrink@mchsi.com.

*PSE 80th Anniversary
Reunion
June 12, 2010
Homecoming
October 17, 2009
Tennessee Tech*

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