



Phi Sigma Epsilon Delta Alumni Association



Vol. 7 No. 1

Spring 1997

PSE Alumni Assn. Reunion – June 22, 1996

It hardly seems possible that it has almost been a year since the successfully memorable Phi Sigma Epsilon Alumni Assn. Reunion took place here in Charleston. For those of you who did not make it, we'll try to recreate the event in writing, complete with the cast of characters (and there are and were some real characters present).

Headquarters for the Reunion was the Worthington Inn in Charleston, now called the Worthington-Best Western Inn located on the west side of the City, formerly the Holiday Inn. Many of the returnees and their wives stayed at the newly refurbished Inn and the Phi Sig Hospitality Room was located there, just adjacent to the Banquet Room area. The Inn worked very well with the PSE Alumni Assn. to guarantee the satisfaction of all its guests, in the quality of the rooms it provided and just as important, the guaranteed room rate for those staying there. We did not receive any complaints from anyone about the facilities, so that helped set the tone for the whole weekend.

Also helping set the tone for the weekend of renewed friendships and get-togethers, were the Friday night planned activities at the Stix Restaurant, Bar and Banquet Facility, located a block west of Ike's Bar (that's probably the easiest way to give directions). Stix had opened up a rear banquet area, complete with a well-stocked bar and bartender for our personal use, and it was very well received. I can't give you an actual count of Brothers and wives/guests that were there, but it was a great turnout, probably on the order of 65-75 people, many of them attending only for the evening because they couldn't attend the Saturday night banquet. Included in that group that I can remember and that pictures will substantiate were Sam Taber, John Greathouse, Bill Danley, Pat Carr, Larry (Gomer) Reed, Dick (Wailer) Christman, Gary Collins, Gene (Wop) Vidoni, Joe (Guatemala) James, Paul Cox, Derek (Munster) Paul, Bud Sanders, Bob Stump, Jr. and E. Gaydon Brandt. It was unfortunate that they could not attend the Saturday ongoings and the Saturday night Buffet Banquet, because they surely missed a continuation of the camaraderie and fun. After shutting down the Stix room, many Brothers came back to the Worthington Inn PSE Hospitality Room, where complimentary drinks and recollections of past days were dredged up or found in the many picture displays, PSE memorabilia displays, clothing displays (past T-shirts, jackets, sweatshirts and a "worm shirt") and past written displays (newspaper articles in scrapbook, old newsletters, address rosters, etc.). Some of these display items are pictured in this newsletter. The Hospitality Room shut down at about 2:30 AM, but was open again at 8 AM on Saturday morning and by 9 AM we were enjoying a good walk-through crowd, although many people spent a good deal of time perusing the accumulated artifacts. The steady flow of Brothers and wives increased in the afternoon when the golf crowd returned from the affection-

ately named Phi Sig Open.

Although this writer did not play golf and spent most of the time in the PSE Hospitality Room conversing, it was pretty obvious from those returning from golf that it was a great outing and that about 40 Brothers started out at 8:15 AM on a beautiful day. I know from later conversations with many of these golfers that the 8:15 AM tee time at the Meadowview golf course came way too soon after the Friday night fun. Jeff Moore was in charge of this activity and from all accounts, did a super job of getting 40 Brothers together, while trying to match them up into foursomes of individuals who knew each other, as per the many requests that we encountered. After finishing their 18 holes of golf, the assembled group met in the dining area for some liquid refreshment and an excellent lunch provided as part of the total golf package. Somewhere around 1:30-2 PM, the group returned to the Worthington headquarters Hospitality Room, their own private rooms, the EIU campus or other familiar watering holes to unwind and visit. Following any and all afternoon activities, wherever they be, was the culmination of the weekend, the PSE Alumni Assn. Reunion Banquet, beginning at 6 PM.

The banquet was held within the four large combined banquet/party rooms at the Worthington Inn and was preceded by a 30-minute cash bar that allowed everyone so inclined to wet their whistle and get ready for the dinner. The buffet dinner, I'm happy to report, was not singled out for any criticism of its entrees and dessert could pass for repeated trips to the Prime Rib area, if you were so inclined, or you could partake of the reg-

continued on page 2

Apology

Tradition gave way to personal loss and lack of funding last Fall, when your PSE Alumni Assn. did not send out a Fall newsletter. We had several inquiries as to why one was not received, the thinking being that they had been erroneously dropped from the address list or whatever. Not to worry though – however the inquiries are appreciated. After the successful PSE Reunion last Summer, the largest class of Student Financial Awards last Fall and with the schedule that our money was invested, the funding for the Fall newsletter was not in place. Additionally, in August, my younger real brother in Canada was diagnosed with brain cancer and we lost him in mid-October, so my energies were really not focused on the newsletter. Our thought was to put out the Spring '97 newsletter as usual and then be back on the twice-a-year cycle again. Therefore, our apologies to you for the missing newsletter and hope that you enjoy this one, even though it is considerably later than usual.

continued from page 1

ular desserts. The Worthington Inn was commended for its sumptuous dinner and for serving it up in an orderly, prompt fashion to the 126 dinner guests that had assembled for this PSE Banquet. Following the dinner, our emcee for the evening, Jim Luthe, shared some prepared remarks for everyone before getting into the actual program. Trying to stay within a timeline for the decade that each respective speaker was assigned to proved to be happily difficult, because there were so many great stories that emanated from the short time allotments. Helping in our program with their decade of stories of fraternity life were the following Brothers and their respective decade:

1930's - Gary Brinkmeyer - Sadly, no Brother from that era could be present, so I presented an historical sketch of the life and times of PSE during the 1930's.

1940's - Dr. T. Richard Fisher - Graduated 1946 - Now retired and living in Elmore, Ohio.

1950's - Dr. Stephen L. Whitley - Graduated 1958 - Now retired from EIU and living in Charleston, Illinois.

Bob G. Miller - Graduated 1953 - In the Insurance/Investing field and living in Auburn, Illinois.

1960's - Gary Brinkmeyer - Graduated 1970 - Seeking to be retired and living in Charleston, Illinois.

1970's - Charles E. Behl, Jr. ("Cat") - Graduated 1976 - Works for Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago and living in Naperville, Illinois.

1980's - Daniel F. Hickey - Graduated 1986 - District Sales Manager for Tru-Serve Hardware chain and living in Bourbonnais, Illinois.

Following these decades of remembrance, a number of awards were presented, those awards consisting of PSE T-shirts, PSE hats, PSE address lists or the souvenir PSE can coolers that were being sold to help defray some of the out-standing costs in hosting this Reunion:

Oldest Phi Sig in attendance - Dr. Richard Fisher - Elmore, Ohio - (several votes for Boone/Doc Chaney)

Travelled farthest - Bill Robinson (Robo) - Danville, California

Several awards and recognitions were presented for the golf results and the pledge class with the largest number of Brothers present was recognized.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the decades remembrance and

awards part of the program, but before winding this down to proceed with communal visiting or dancing, I proudly accepted in complete surprise, an honoraria called "Keeper of the Flame" award. I will repeat here as I spoke in thanks then, "that my efforts have been a labor of love, a love of PSE and its Brothers, who became the family I so desperately needed after living in and then leaving an orphanage to attend school at EIU. I love you all for what you have been to me - a family of Brothers."

After the program was over, each Phi Sig was invited to pick up his own personal favor, that being a black-finished clock and picture frame combination, that was highlighted by each personalized name in calligraphy on a background of the PSE crest and the relevant information about the Reunion. People now broke into small groups to do some serious visiting - as mentioned earlier, many wives of Brothers were present. Many of them knew others present, so between the Brothers and the Brothers' wives, a lot of childrens' (and grandchildrens') pictures were offered up, a lot of new pictures were taken and everybody had too many people to visit and too little time to do it. At 9 PM the music started from our own PSE Alumni DJ, Carl Wolff, and continued until late evening, cranking out a lot of good sounds, many recognizable to us as favorites from over the decades. Although the lateness of the hour took its toll on many who had come together, for many others the evening simply shifted to the PSE Hospitality Room after midnight and we continued to "PARTY ON". And of course what would a good PSE party be without being told at 2:30 AM, that we had to keep the noise down while standing out in the doorway area telling old jokes and stories. Fortunately, cooler heads prevailed following this notification and within a half hour the 1996 Reunion was officially over. On Sunday, the cleanup of a weekend of activities began, so that we could vacate the premises before 11 AM.

A number of inquiries have already been forwarded to the PSE Board, as to when we might plan on getting together again at a large planned Reunion. The year 2000 celebrates the 70th year of our existence and seems like a possibly appropriate time to commiserate and celebrate the Phi Sigma Epsilon Alumni Assn. Besides that, it would be a great way to break in the new Millenium too. The seed has now been planted - let's see how it grows over the next couple of years.



PSE Memorabilia

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L to R: Austin Opp, "Cat" Behl and Bill "Gator" David.

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Jim Porter, Charlie Henry, Dave Norris, Lynn Granger, Keith Gotthardt & Bill Granger.



L to R: Pat Carr, Bill Danley, Bob Stump, Jr. and Bob Miller.

PSE Sixth Annual Student Awards

The largest group of Student Award recipients to date came together with their parents and the PSE Alumni Assn. Board of Directors for an informal picnic lunch and get-together on Sunday, August 18, 1996, at Southeast Park in Charleston. Ten students at Eastern, whose common legacy is a Phi Sig father from Delta chapter at EIU, represented the sixth class of students to receive the monetary awards from the Phi Sigma Epsilon Alumni Assn. Much to our dismay however, we were only able to award each student a check for \$250, but it is still our commitment to continue this endeavor, having now distributed almost \$18,000 to students since its inception.

We were honored with the presence of Dr. Stephen L. Whitley ('58 - Retired EIU Zoology professor), who was a Phi Sig at Eastern and has helped out the Alumni Assn. in a number of capacities over the years.

The group of ten included four new students at Eastern who received their first Student Award, amongst them Kari Palishen, daughter of Harold and Maggie Palishen; Jay Woodland, son of Stephen and Diana Woodland; Sara Granger, daughter of Bill and Lynn Granger and Joanna Elke, daughter of Dick Elke.

Receiving a second year financial award was Amy Root, daughter of Ed and Karen Root and Jonathan Porter, son of Jim and Terri Porter while Ryan Hilligoss, son of Bob and Donna Hilligoss, Steve Eichhorn, son of Ron and Lynn Eichhorn and Brooke Hood, daughter of Dick and Linda Hood were present to receive a third year Student Award. Present also this day was Brooke's dad, Dick Hood, who continues to make remarkable progress from the football-related injury he suffered in September, 1995. It was great to see him out and about again. Our final Student Award went to Bradley Neathery, son of Lynn and Linda Neathery, and for him it represented the fourth year that the Phi Sig Alumni have been able to financially assist him.

Although we took pictures of the entire group of almost 30 people, it cannot be clearly reproduced to identify everybody, so therefore no group picture is shown. Informal conversation (defined as "living in the past") before and after the lunch/Student Awards was very much in order and it was great to host such a large group. We are looking forward to August 1997 and the continuation of the PSE Alumni Association Student Award program.

E-mail Addresses

With the advent of electronic mail (e-mail) and its phenomenal popularity, several requests have come forth that we publish e-mail addresses in the newsletter. If you have one and would like it included, send it to the PSE Alumni Assn. and we will endeavor to publish them in each forthcoming issue. The first set of names and e-mail addresses that I have are:

Gary Brinkmeyer - psebrink@mail.stinet.com

Larry Cali - ljarli@aol.com

Jim Holtwisch - jimho@attachmate.com

Monte Popham - mpopham@advant.com

Tom Swanson - tswan60940@aol.com

John Ziebarth - jziebarth@ncsa.uiuc.edu

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.

R. Aaron Patterson

John C. Gough

Anthony L. Huber

Ronald R. Kitchen

James R. Decker, Jr.



L to R: Sam Taber and Bud Sanders.



L to R at table: Barb Elke, Roger McCoy, Joan McCoy, Larry Carli, Dick Elke.

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L to R around table: Dick Kellenberger, Wally Kos, Jim Luthe, Ken Dennison.
Standing: John Ziebarth.

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L to R: Jeff Estes, Jack McGrath, Dick Rodie, Gary Brinkmeyer and Ron Eichhorn.

SEVENTH ANNUAL STUDENT AWARDS

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 almost \$18,000 the past 6 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 1997 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, 1997. Upon

receipt and verification of children attending or about to attend EIU, notification will be forwarded to you regarding the Student Award. 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 (____) _____

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

Homecoming
October 25, 1997
Austin Peay University