



## Phi Sigma Epsilon Delta Alumni Association



Vol. 8 No. 2

Gary Brinkmeyer – Editor

Fall 1998

### The Cover Story

With the completion of the story of the last Phi Sig House at Eastern, that being the 1509 Second St. House, the ideas for the "Cover Story" in the Newsletter began to diminish. A new area of interest in a subject we Phi Sigs could all relate to was needed. Enter Steve Dawson (Gopher).

At our quarterly Spring 1998 PSE Alumni Board meeting, the subject came up for discussion. After some bantering about of various subjects, Gopher suggested that he could write a story about his Pledge Class and that other Brothers could do the same thing. Ensuing discussion centered on the possibility of doing this for as many Pledge Classes as possible, thereby involving at least one member in submitting information to me for inclusion in the Newsletter about his Pledge Class. Now, if you're nervous about writing something up because of a perceived writing ability, don't be. But, if you are genuinely concerned, just send me the factual details and/or short anecdotal stories and I will be happy to use my editing liberty to craft a true accounting of the relayed information. This write-up can be

returned to you for your approval or to verify the format of the information.

Therefore, I throw out the gauntlet of responsibility to you. I hear from various members from time to time about their satisfaction in reading about or finding out about information or individuals they had forgotten over the years. You can now help me by sending me information about your Pledge Class and what events you experienced at that bonding time. My address is the post office box listed as the return address for this mailing or my home address as listed in the Bios & Addresses in this Newsletter or by E-mail at – psebrink@mail.stlnet.com.

It may be possible to do two Pledge Classes per issue depending on their size or the amount of information forwarded, but I remember a few classes with memorable characters (Brothers) and stories (antics) where it could take two Newsletter issues to cover their one class. But now, without further adieu, here is Steve Dawson's accounting of his Pledge Class.

### The Dirty Dozen Plus One

The Fall 1962 Phi Sigma Epsilon Pledge Class consisted of 13 members. They were Joe Arro, Bill Baldwin, Steve Dawson, Bill Eads, Dave Foreman, Roger Haberer, Bob Hoffek, Tom Homma, Larry Iftner, Kip Jensen, Mike LaGessee, Ernie Monk and Dave Reilly.

My first introduction to the Phi Sigs was through the Union Cafeteria work connection. My first quarter in school, Fall '61, was partially spent washing pots and pans with Ray Hanlon. He then introduced me to many others working there, including Bob Durham, L. D. Matthews, Jerry Mushrush, "Big Boone" Chaney, Don Full, Ron Doris, Bob Hilligoss, Ron Spraggins, Dave Lilien, Sandy Blovad and others. I didn't decide to pledge until the following year, but by then there was no choice but Phi Sig. My "Big Brother" was Ron Doris and I eventually got a "Little Brother" too, Dick Christman (Wailer).

The Fall '62 Pledge Class was the first class to carry the PSE cane. (There is a whole story behind the cane – in the next issue – Editor). Joe Arro was the President of the class and was also the infamous "Red Tie" man. Our class jelled together rapidly and developed strong bonds. Games were always in fashion at the House. How many of you could still say the Greek alphabet before burning your fingers? Or, how many trips did YOU make to Burger King? I remember that during "Hell Week", Bill Eads

was on the Gymnastics team. The Actives decided that it would not look good for Bill to have a black and blue butt, so they asked which "Worm" would take Bill's swats. Like an idiot, I jumped up and said I would. Bill, you still owe me.

I will always remember the night of the cemetery ride. We pledges were dropped off in three groups outside of town and the Actives did not even hint in which direction the cemetery was. I guess they thought I should know since I was a "townie". After awhile we decided to knock on this farmer's door, not realizing that it was after 1 a.m. I pounded and pounded until finally a light came on and the farmer cracked the door with a shotgun in his hand. However, I did manage to get directions, finding out that we were about four miles away. When we got to the cemetery, everyone was sleeping in the church waiting for us. Tom Homma had already found the quarter (penny?) so now it was time for the long hike back. About halfway back to town there was another church, so we went through the window and slept until just about dawn. Now, if you remember the rules of this game, there was to be no sleeping and you were not to let anyone see you. We started walking again and the headlights of a car came up behind us. Someone said "Let's get a ride", but everyone dove into the ditch except Homma and Reilly, who flagged down this bakery truck that was delivering bread. The

continued from page 1

driver thought this was GREAT! He loaded all 13 of us in the bread truck and delivered us to Eastern's golf course. We strolled into the House at about 7:30 a.m. and the Actives were really P.O.ed. When we hadn't shown up when they thought we should, they had sent out a patrol looking for us. Unbeknownst to them, we were sleeping in the second church, mentioned earlier.

In the Spring of '63 I moved into the House, where I lived for 7½ quarters. The ½ quarter absence was when Roger Haberer, Ray Schaljo, Steve Ringhofer and I moved into the "Sugar Shack". We got booted out of there for being too noisy. Can you imagine that? The four quietest Phi Sigs at the time, so back to the House I moved. While living there, I was always challenged in arm wrestling and rarely lost, coming close only to Nick Balodimas and Glen Altman.

There were many all night card games with Jim "Sac" Davis as the ring leader. The regulars were Sac, Mike LaGessee, Dave Reilly, Doug Rose (DR) and myself. It was always easy to pick up another one or two players when needed. I think I lost the most, but Sac was always ready to let me play on credit and

then turn my next week's paycheck over to him. Now and then I did get lucky. One Saturday night (after the bars closed) and all the way until Sunday night, a large stake game was going on. I was up over \$250 when somebody yelled "Let's go to Sigel", so off we went. With this money burning a hole in my pocket, I think I tried every kind of drink available. After coughing up my cookies later that night, I decided that was the last time for that.

At this time period, the Phi Sigs were loaded with "jocks". We frequently won the All Sports Intramural Championship and thanks to flag football and a Sig Pi knee, I still have sinus problems from a crushed cheek bone and eye socket. And oh yes, who could forget those "Chinkbuggers" and bowling for beers. I don't think Gomer (Larry Reed) or Mike LaGessee ever had to buy.

After 3½ years in the Air Force, I returned for my MBA (a way to get out early). Like a fool, I lived in the House again. There were still some familiar faces there, like Gomer, Frank Farr, Steer, Little Boone, Dick Christman and Tom Swanson to name a few. My total time at Eastern, including service time was from Fall 1961 until Spring 1971.

## PSE Tidbits

– Two letters from different PSE Brothers responding to address updates have provided a unique perspective of a former Brother at Eastern. That Brother was Donald R. Farnsworth ("Russ"), who was originally from the Arcola, Illinois area. Bob Garner ('50) of Mandeville, LA. writes that "I knew Russ Farnsworth as early as 1937. He was in Arcola and I was in Mattoon and we were amateur (HAM) radio buffs." He continues by stating "Rusty was totally blind from birth" and that was corroborated by Frank W. Tate ('41) of Carson City, NV., who wrote "Russ Farnsworth was our fraternity brother who was blind (but an honor student and popular pianist)." Bob continues with information in his letter that defines the wartime, and perhaps continuing, achievements of Russ. He writes, "He left a legacy: during World War II he was at Navy Pier in Chicago teaching Morse Code to Navy personnel. He developed a way of teaching the code (called the Farnsworth Method, of course) that lives to this day. Anyone involved with telegraphy will know of it." Russ is now deceased, having died in the Arcola area, probably in the 1950's. A unique story about a unique Brother.

– A tentative date of either June 17 or June 24, 2000 has been penciled in at the local Best Western Worthington Inn for the 70th Reunion of the Phi Sigma Epsilon Alumni Association at EIU. Since our 66th Reunion two years ago here in Charleston, we have received periodic inquiries about the possibility of a future Reunion and the new Millennium seemed an appropo time to shoot for. So, for those of you who missed it two years ago but wanted to come, you now have plenty of notice and for those of you who did come and were looking forward to another one, here it comes. We will keep you posted on new details as they transpire.

– By the time you receive this Newsletter, Homecoming will be just around the corner, falling this year on October 17, 1998, against rival in-state school, Illinois State University. Our traditional PSE Alumni Assn. meeting will again be held at the home of Gary Brinkmeyer on Homecoming Day at noon. The primary purpose of this meeting is to select the new PSE Board, who in the November meeting will then elect the new officers of your PSE Alumni Assn. for the upcoming year.

## Fall '62 Pledge Class Addresses

Now that you know a little bit about the highlighted Pledge Class, here are the addresses of those members that we know for sure. If there are changes or you know the whereabouts of any unknown addressee, let us know.

Joe A. Arro – 206 Coral Dr., Collinsville, IL 62234 (618) 345-8115  
William R. Baldwin, Jr. – unknown  
Stephen C. Dawson – 2615 W. Kent, Carbondale, IL 62901 (618) 549-7776  
William C. Eads – 7615 Mikesell Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46260 (317) 257-7383  
David W. Foreman – 3208 Harder Dr., Gillette, WY 82716 (307) 686-7450  
Roger L. Haberer – 1012 Williamsburg Dr., Charleston, IL 61920 (217) 345-7248  
Robert G. Hoffek – 716 Trenton Dr., Sherman, IL 62684 (217) 496-2647  
Thomas K. Homma – 8 Birch Lane, Box 183, Villa Grove, IL 61956 (217) 832-9664  
Larry L. Iftner – 1914 Zschokke, Highland, IL 62249 (618) 654-3655  
Keith R. (Kip) Jensen – 1284 W. Bauer Rd., Naperville, IL 60563 (630) 357-4160  
Michael J. Lagesse – 383 N. Prairie, Bradley, IL 60915 (815) 932-4050  
Ernest E. Monk – 608 N. Pine, Muncie, IL 60954 (815) 472-2555  
David L. Reilly – 3540 22nd Way NE, Olympia, WA 98506 (206) 491-8704

## Thank You For Your Contributions

*Over the years, the PSE Alumni Association has been the recipient of numerous contributions that were sent to us, primarily to help in defraying copying and mailing costs as they relate to the PSE Newsletter. We have received these from young and older Brothers alike, and although they have always been verbally acknowledged, they should have been acknowledged more properly through a written response. With this Newsletter, we the Phi Sigma Epsilon Alumni Association, would like to thank all those Brothers who have sent in contributions over the years. Your contributions have made a difference in being able to provide the twice yearly Newsletter to some 700 Phi Sigs, while still maintaining our PSE Student Award philanthropy.*



# ***PSE Eighth Annual Student Awards***

The cool and windy day of last year's Award day gave way to the continued hot and windy weather for this year on Sunday, August 23, 1998. The occasion was the Eighth Annual Phi Sigma Epsilon Alumni Association Student Awards presentation at Southeast Park in Charleston. Besides the wind complicating our efforts to put up the Phi Sig banner, the bees about drove everyone crazy while we tried to enjoy the picnic lunch of grilled chicken breasts and hamburgers, potato salad, baked beans, drinks and of course the always popular brownies. Perhaps if we had sacrificed a brownie or two and some really sweet lemonade or iced tea to the bee gods in the far corner, we could have enjoyed dinner a little more.

Twenty-one people made the trip from various parts of the state to be a part of this Annual Award, those being the EIU students, many of their parents and members of the PSE Alumni Assn. Board. Dick Elke had probably the farthest drive, but he did that in style on his Honda Gold Wing motorcycle from Elgin, Illinois. Visiting initially upon arrival, everyone became reacquainted and with the completion of the lunch, some words of introduction set the tone for the rest of the activities. After hearing from the parents of the students about their lives and livelihoods since leaving Eastern, the honored students briefly shared their interests and aspirations, both at Eastern and after graduation.

We were able to do again this year what we had done the first two years of our Student Awards honoraria, that is, award the maximum \$500 check to each student. With the presentation of this year's checks, we have been able to help out with almost \$24,000 of financial assistance to eligible students since the Awards inception. Six students comprise this year's Award recipients.

Receiving their first year Award were two students: Tom Medder, son of Mel and Kitty Medder of Godfrey, IL and Michelle Eichhorn, daughter of Ron and Lynn Eichhorn of Woodridge, IL. Michelle is carrying on the Eichhorn tradition at Eastern after brother Steve, a 4-year Award recipient, graduated last May. Following not too far behind is younger brother Kevin, who may again bring the Eichhorn name to Eastern. Receiving their third year Award were the other four students: Jay Woodland, son of Stephen and Diana Woodland of Oblong, IL, Kari Palishen, daughter of Harold and Maggie Palishen of Hanna City, IL, Joanna Elke, daughter of Dick Elke of Elgin, IL and Sara Granger, daughter of Bill and Lynn Granger of Moro, IL.

Following the planned activities, additional visiting time ensued and leftover meals were assembled for any students who wished them in place of or in addition to the dorm food or eating out. Preparations now begin for next Year's Student Awards presentations.



L to R – Jay Woodland, Steve Woodland, Kari Palishen, Harold Palishen, Michelle Eichhorn, Ron Eichhorn, Sara Granger, Bill Granger, Joanna Elke, Dick Elke, Kitty Medder, Tom Medder, Mel Medder.

## ***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 latest names and e-mail addresses that I have are:

Ron D. Grissom – rgrissom@gvc.net  
Floyd Leonard – fgleonard@aol.com  
Frank W. Tate – FWTATE@iphone.net  
Mike Snow – mas2214@midwest.net  
Stephen J. Houghton – 1338shoug@aol.com  
David W. Foreman – dforeman@ccsd.k12.wy.us

## ***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.

Wendell A. Lathrop  
Ralph E. Closson

Maurice R. Hemphill  
Ernest C. Keigley

Robert E. Spivey

## Bios & Addresses

**Steve Houghton** – 1338 Arrowhead Drive, Bourbonnais, IL 60914 (815) 932-3159. Graduated from EIU in 1979. Worked at Kankakee Community College as Volleyball Coach and Fitness Center Director from the early 80's until the Summer of 1997. Took a job at Chicago State University as Womens Volleyball and Golf Coach, to rebuild a weak volleyball program and to fill in for golf because no one else was any more qualified. Met new wife Lori at the Fitness Center and was married on 2/14/98 in their home. Has a great 10-year-old step-son and even inherited the dog too. Steve would like to see if there is anything being planned for the upcoming Spring or Summer in the area. Somebody ought to run with this!

### Missing Brothers – Do You Know Where They Are?

The Spring 1998 Newsletter Missing Brothers article denoted 30 PSE Brothers, requesting address or status information, so that we can update our address composite list. Again, you came through for us. Seven of the 30 names were identified and 3 additional names were given deceased status that were not on the list. New addresses were received for Bob L. Daniels, Sam J. Forzley, Kenneth R. Gher and John M. Evey. My thanks to Ron Grissom, Doyle Dressback, Robert E. Garner, Wally Kos and Frank W. Tate for their help, which extended even to information about an extraordinary Brother whose story is in the PSE Tidbit column. Let's keep the updated addresses or status changes coming to the PSE Alumni Assn. Here is the next listing of missing Brothers. Do you know where they are?

Albert Goldsmith  
Wayne E. Gordon  
John D. Green  
Donald L. Grigsby  
Robert L. Grubaugh  
Robert L. Gumm  
Joseph H. Hall  
Ruel Hall  
Ronald P. Hanke  
Ray F. Hanlon  
Waiser E. Harms  
Vernon R. Hartsell

Don E. Herron  
Kirk A. Hile  
Kevin J. Hextell  
Ralph H. Hill  
Robert L. Huffman  
Robert E. Jacobs Jr.  
Richard L. Johnson  
Wayne Isley  
Gerald E. Johnston  
Lynn P. Keeper  
William E. Kessler  
Lawrence H. Kindel

Thomas R. Kitsos  
Peter W. Klein  
Lyle E. Koch  
Kraig Kowalski  
John T. Lackey  
Forrest L. Lancaster  
Bill W. Lash  
Robert F. Lathrop  
Charles A. Laue  
Dale W. Lazier  
John K. Lebrecht  
Kurt D. Lorenzen

## Changes of Address

**Tom W. Porter** – 364 Cardinal Drive, Bloomingdale, IL 60108.  
**Gary A. Kling** – 913 Lakeshore Dr., Tuscola, IL 61953  
**Ron D. Grissom** – R R 2, Glennwood, Greenville, IL 62246  
**Robert W. Pierce** – 9 Diane Ct., Randolph, NJ 07869  
**Robert W. Anderson** – 7206 Cleveland Circle, Merrillville, IN 46410  
**Roy J. Dillard** – RR 1, Box 415, Lawrenceville, IL 62439  
**Timothy J. Ruberg** – 103 Brookwood Path, Peachtree City, GA 30269  
**William H. Wessel** – P.O. Box 241, Sanford, FL 32772  
**Bernard L. Waren** – 3101 La Conner Dr., Springfield, IL 62704  
**Charles W. Titus** – 1701 Redbud Road, Charleston, IL 61920  
**Thomas P. Johnson** – 11341 Bluebonnet Ct., Plymouth, IN 46563  
**Gordon F. Quill** – HC 5, Box 127, Mandan, ND 58554  
**Robert A. Brendel** – 1521 Fair Oaks Dr., Troy, IL 62294  
**Greg A. Breningmeyer** – 8908 Deerland Grove, Raleigh, NC 27615  
**Timothy P. McCaughey** – 891 Riddle Hill Rd., Springfield, IL 62707  
**Gale E. Garbe** – 1 Pioneer Trail, Glen Carbon, IL 62034  
**Coyn V. Richardson** – 917 W. Lake Shore Dr., Springfield, IL 62707  
**Charles S. Venarsky** – 10 Blossom Lake Lane, Maryville, IL 62062  
**Bob L. Daniels** – 15713 W. 139th St., Olathe, KS 66062  
**Sam J. Forzley** – 1192 Walter, Lemont, IL 60439  
**Kenneth R. Gher** – 205 N. Murray Blvd. #81, Colorado Springs, CO 80916  
**John M. Evey** – 1080 N.E. Purcell Blvd., Bend, OR 97701  
**Donald E. Daykin** – 34 Hillcrest Park, Taylorville, IL 62568  
**Porter B. Simcox** – 1410 W. Fillmore St., Vandalia, IL 62471  
**Sanford P. Blovad** – 4152 Thain Way, Palo Alto, CA 94306  
**Scott J. McCollam** – 337 Park Valley Dr., Coppell, TX 75019  
**Russell S. Barden** – 201 Sardis View Rd., Charlotte, NC 28211  
**Gary Brinkmeyer** – 910 Tenth St., Charleston, IL 61920

## Newsletters Available!

This issue of the P.S.E. Alumni Association Newsletter represents the fifteenth issue since the Spring 1991 initial newsletter. The Spring Newsletter is followed by its Fall counterpart for each year. For those of you who did not receive any particular newsletter, we do have extras available and will be happy to forward a copy to you upon request – let us know.



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

*Homecoming  
October 17, 1998  
Illinois State University*