



# Phi Sigma Epsilon Delta Alumni Association



Vol. 9 No. 1

Gary Brinkmeyer – Editor

Spring 1999

## Fall '66 Phi Sigma Epsilon Pledge Class

Unlike the story in the Fall '98 Newsletter entitled "The Dirty Dozen Plus One", I could not think of any other title except that noted above to introduce this story. The Fall 1966 PSE Pledge Class consisted of 11 members. They were Bill Anderson, Al Ortgren, Randy Rothrock, Dee Myers, Craig Nelson, Bob Meskan, Roger Long, Steve Moore, Bruno Mangiardi, Jim Eisman and myself, Gary Brinkmeyer. We are all over the country now, with a couple of us in the local Charleston area. I am sad to say however, that Bill Anderson is no longer with us, having died about 5 years ago.

Our pledge class began pledging on October 4, 1966, and went active on January 29, 1967, a transition time of almost 4 months, that at times seemed like 4 years. I've been told by numerous members that that represents one of the longest pledgeships they've ever heard of. Were we really that bad? Randy Rothrock was the President of our class and later became the President of the House, while Dee Myers was the infamous "Red Tie" man.

As I look back on our pledge class, I tend to see that our members were really a diverse group. But then of course, that is what pledging is all about – to take that diversity and mold it into one cohesive group that embodied the values that the Active PSE Brothers wished for us to strive for and ultimately achieve. Were we really that slow to catch on?

Dick Gill (Zoom) was our Pledge Trainer and a finer, more patient leader we could not have wished for. Zoom is no doubt training many more entrants to heaven these days, having died some 15 years ago.

I particularly remember the Monday night meetings in the Meeting Room. After having crawled on our hands and knees at meteoric pace and wearing an autographed white t-shirt and a tie to your designated spot on the floor, you answered to the admonition of "Worm". Initially, you felt lower than whale \_\_\_\_\_ on the bottom of the ocean, until you finally realized that the directed insults, ass-chewings and physical intimidations were to make you tougher. Since we "Worms" all endured it, some more than others, and no one else around us had to, it made us stronger and increased our feelings of Brotherhood within our group. Of course for some, there was more "attention" given than for others. Attention in this context, refers to having more Actives scream at you for all your screwups, perceived or actual. In our pledge class as I remember, it was Roger Long who seemed to be the magnet for the Actives' rage, over either what he said or didn't say or did or didn't do. He seemed to be damned either way, but accepted his meted out wrath and carried on. As we all in turn stood up, had our pants pulled out and listened as others berated us for seemingly everything, we became a pledge class that was bonding together. Many of the trite games and adventures played upon us had a purpose – to get you to know about your Brothers-to-be and Phi Sigma Epsilon. The pledge books (names, hometowns, majors, nicknames, girlfriends, etc.), pledge t-shirts, the signed eggs (that were ultimately tossed over the House), carrying the PSE cane, Wednesday dress-up day, answering the phone before the second ring, infinite trips to Burger King or Snappy's, wake-up calls

or rousts and on and on ad infinitum were purposeful – we just didn't know it at the time.

In January 1967, several weeks before we went active, it was decided that we should go on a scavenger hunt this particular cold Monday night. It turned out to be one of the most fun things that we did as a group. I'm sure they (the actives) wanted to see if we could work together as a group to accomplish a singular goal in a finite amount of time, that is, the collection of a list of articles they assembled. Many things from this list have escaped me over time, but I do remember some of them.

- Signed pair of panties - DZ, I think
- Birth control pill (remember, this was 1967 - pretty rare and not talked about)
- Pabst clock
- Pabst pitcher and four PBR glasses
- Sign from Dean Kluge's (I think) office at Old Main
- Some odd number of pounds of chicken \_\_\_\_\_ (you know)
- Some odd number, like 15.75 pounds of cow \_\_\_\_\_ (again, you know)
- Mailbox
- Fraternity paddle from another fraternity
- Probably 10-15 other items (who knows what else)

We were allotted about two hours to do all this and be back at the House with everything - a major undertaking as I recall. I don't remember what everyone was assigned to collect, but I do remember a few things. The sign at Old Main was tough because of ongoing student and class traffic in the area. We assigned one of our taller pledge brothers to abscond with it and he tried gingerly to do it, removing screw by screw amidst interruptions. Finally, with time running out, either Roger Long, Steve Moore or Bill Anderson jumped up, ripped it out of the oak door frame and scattered. Meanwhile, Jim Eisman and I knew the whereabouts of a chicken coop on the edge of town, so in the late hours of a cold Monday evening we crawled around on the floor scooping up chicken \_\_\_\_\_ and serenading the

### *Sorry This Is So Late!*

The tumblers of time all seemed to converge in a tight window of time this past Spring and unfortunately, the Newsletter that should have been out in early April is now some 6 weeks behind. My apologies to you all.

With the declining health of a wonderful mother-in-law and her death in early March, to a long-planned 100th Birthday party for my grandmother in Canada, to a long-planned wedding for Corey (first son) and Amy on May 1, to getting Justin (second son) into college and then graduated at the end of May, time seemed to take a backseat. I am now back on track. Those of you responding for the Student Awards, please note the cutoff date of July 1, 1999. Still plenty of time to get them sent in.

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chickens with our own clucking and cackling to keep them calm. Oh, for a video of that! It must have worked because we got our stuff and didn't get shot at. In the meantime, Craig Nelson and others found a farm with some choice frozen cow patties (remember - cold January) and managed to pry them from the frozen ground. We all met back at the House with our assorted treasures and to the Actives amazement, we had collected everything on the list in the time allotted. I don't know what ever happened to the "loot", except for the animal plunder. We were instructed to do something with it,

so we absconded a 30-gallon plastic trash can, dumped the waste into it and added enough hot water to it to liquefy and thicken it. It was great fun to drive by the Sigma Pi House the next day and revel in their pledges chipping the frozen concoction off the Sig Pi rock.

In about three weeks we were Actives and eagerly awaiting our first Monday night meeting, so we could scream at the Spring '67 Pledge Class members, with the likes of Ken Gazda, the Hernandoes (Mike Snow & Otto Hartman) and others. But that's a whole new story, best reserved for a future Newsletter and told by a member himself.

## June 24, 2000 – 70th Anniversary PSE Alumni Reunion

The title says it all, but here is some additional information to whet your appetite. The above date, which is Y2K secure by the way, is the date for the banquet to be held at the Best Western Worthington Inn (formerly Worthington Inn) in Charleston, IL. It is the same site that we utilized three years ago for the 66th Anniversary Reunion, and because it all went so well there that weekend, we are booked again. For those of you that missed the 66th, you missed a great time, but next fall you can make up for that. Obviously, much more detail will be printed in the Fall '99 and Spring 2000 Newsletters, so this is just to let you know that it is looming on the horizon. BUT, plan now to fix that date on your long-range calendar, because as we older Brothers know, time moves faster the older we age. I can personally vouch for that.

As before, we are planning a Friday evening get-together to visit and relax amongst old friends and/or roomies. We are also planning the Saturday morning golf outing, because it was so well received, the Saturday evening buffet banquet and the as-long-as-you-want-to visiting room-to-room at the Inn. We are in negotiations for a package deal from the Inn guaranteeing us a locked in rate structure for a large block of rooms. More information later about that.

We are already hearing from Brothers around the country that know about the upcoming Reunion and have made their intentions known about attending. We had about 130 in attendance at the 1996 Reunion and nobody that I have talked to had any regrets about attending. We would love to see upwards of 200 (or more) at the Reunion next year. Start planning!

## Britton Honored at Editors Wall Dedication

An official dedication of the *Eastern News* Editors Wall Display Case and a memorial plaque to Gordon C. Britton took place on October 17, 1998 in the newly renovated Buzzard Lab School on the campus of Eastern Illinois University. An article in the Spring '98 newsletter offered some insight about the Editors Wall. It was made possible by donations to the Gordon Britton Memorial Fund and honored the past students and staff of *The Eastern News*.

Gordon C. Britton, a member of Phi Sigma Epsilon and graduate of EIU, was the editor of the *Eastern News* during the 1971-72 winter quarter. That was followed by a career in the newspaper business, primarily as an editor or editorial writer for papers in Frankfort, IN, Edwardsville, IL and Midland, MI as well as the Lindsay-Schaub newspaper chain. A change in careers took him to California, where he ultimately died in a freak electrical accident in 1995.

Brit, as he was most often called, was remembered by his close friends through Nancy Britton and then was poignantly remembered by Nancy herself. Dan Thornburgh of the EIU Journalism Department, who mentored Brit while he was in school at Eastern, also spoke on behalf of Gordon. Through a brochure of selected writings (columns written by Brit for the Midland, MI *Daily News* between 1986 and 1991), you might even have sensed Brit's spiritual pres-

ence. These writings represented selections by peers and friends, to be published especially for the dedication of the *Eastern News* Editors Wall at EIU in memory of Gordon C. Britton.

The plaque dedicated to Brit stated simply:

"Gordon Britton was a dedicated community newspaperman and a witty, insightful writer. He was involved in his community and challenged his readers to think. His legacy to the newspaper world is the number of journalists he inspired. To the rest of the world, he left his sons, Sean and Ian, who carry on his humor, intelligence and principles."

## Fall '66 Pledge Class Addresses

Gary W. Brinkmeyer - 910 Tenth St., Charleston, IL 61920 (217) 345-4684.

James J. Eisman - 7384 Stout Dr., Circleville, OH 43113 (614) 477-2508.

Roger D. Long - 1939 Deer Lane, Washington, IL 61571 (309) 444-5115.

William R. Anderson - Deceased

Dee A. Myers - 310 E. Benham, Tolono, IL 60880 (217) 485-5546.

Craig A. Nelson - 204 Capistrano, Jefferson City, MO 65109 (314) 636-4276.

Robert J. Meskan - 206 Circle North, Island Lake, IL 60042 (708) 526-8246.

Alan K. Ortegren - 216 Stolze, East Alton, IL 62024 (618) 259-7066.

C. Steve Moore - 116 Windword Way, Indian Harbor Beach, FL 32937 (407) 773-4939.

Randall E. Rothrock - R.R. 2, Box 12A, Arcola, IL 61910 (217) 268-3209.

Bruno R. Mangiardi - 3911 Ravenswood Rd., Allentown, PA. 18103 (215) 435-7992.



Pictured left to right – Ian, Nancy and Sean Britton in front of memorial plaque.

## PSE Tidbits

– An article featuring Dick Hood ('66) has appeared recently (May '99) in the St. Louis Post Dispatch, the Chicago Tribune and the Charleston Times Courier newspapers at the very minimum, because I have seen those. It is an astonishing story of courage and triumph over adversity, both physically and mentally. In case you don't remember the details, Dick was injured in a freak accident while practicing his football team, Belleville West, in the Fall of 1995 and has been paralyzed since then. He has amazed his doctors, nurses and therapists since with his positive can-do attitude, making much progress and promising more. He was recently hired as an assistant football coach for McKendree College in Lebanon, IL, and lectures and demonstrates from his wheelchair on the field two days per week. That is probably the best therapy that Dick endures. Our thoughts and best wishes continue to be with you. I can't reprint the article here due to its length, but would be glad to send it to anyone requesting it from the Alumni Assn. Use the return address on this Newsletter.

– The untimely death of Mel Medder was really a shocker for a lot of his friends, acquaintances and PSE Brothers, and certainly put many things in a different perspective for them. Mel suffered a fatal heart attack while doing yardwork on Sunday, April 18, 1999 in Godfrey, IL. He worked most of his life in men's clothing sales, both as a partner and then sole store owner in Charleston, and later as a sales rep for a menswear clothing manufacturer. Mel is survived by his wife Kittie, daughters Mary and Kathleen, and son Tom, who attends EIU and is a Student Award recipient. The Phi Sigma Epsilon Alumni Assn. extends its deepest sympathy to the Medder family.

– The Phi Sig Open, a yearly golf tournament in the Chicago area, took on a special flavor this year, literally and figuratively, when the Swanee's (Tom & LaDonna Swanson of Grant Park, IL) capped off the 18 holes of golf with a good old pig roast. The guest of honor was a 100 pound look-alike of our old buddy Barney – remember him – the red plastic pig trophy that was awarded to many who attended the hog roasts of the past. The real Barney trophy has been lost to the ages, but his look-alike grandson was recently donated by Ron Rami, who saw him in a store and had to send him to us. Another copy made an appearance at the Pig Roast, but that was a painted copy, unlike Rami's. Tom cooked up a great meal with his custom-built Phi Sig cooker and LaDonna provided the rest of the meal with her home cooking expertise, including her

famous brownies and cupcakes. All the golfers in attendance also received customized silver gray golf towels custom embroidered with the PSE Greek letters and individual nicknames. Phi Sig flags showed the way from the property entrance to the flagpole in the yard. Those enjoying it all included Dick Weber from Texas, John Ziebarth from California, Mike Goodman from Wisconsin and the following Illinoisans, Ron Eichhorn, Dave Carrell, Duayne Nyckel, Jerry Nyckel, Kirk Davis, Jay Solheim, Dick Swing, Jerry Brendel, Greg Kochendorfer, Jim Luthe, Boone Chaney, Gary Brinkmeyer and of course, Tom and LaDonna. Thanks for a good time, Swanee's!

– The PSE Alumni Assn. recently invested in an opportunity to leave the good name of Phi Sigma Epsilon - Delta Chapter in perpetuity at Eastern Illinois University. Many of you alumni have probably received a brochure from EIU to buy a brick or paver that can be engraved for the new Commemorative Courtyard that is located in mid-campus between McAfee Gymnasium and the Triad housing complex. This project is about complete at this time and when completed, it should be an attractive addition to a previously little used area. When our 16" x 16" paver brick is installed and engraved, we will print a picture of it in the Newsletter. It will incorporate a design and information that is uniquely Phi Sig, so stay tuned.

The handbook "Delta Chapter - Phi Sigma Epsilon - 1928-1938 - A Decade of Progress" by Paul Elliot Blair ('34) was recently donated to the Phi Sig Archives by Dr. T. Richard Fisher ('46), better known as Dick Fisher or "Eagle" to his cohorts of the time. Previous to his donation of the book, I never knew it to exist. It now makes me wonder if there are other PSE publications out there that are also unbeknownst to us. We would love to hear about them or receive a copy or xerox of them for our Archives. This handbook is a gold mine for early PSE information with such chapters as "History of Delta of Phi Sigma Epsilon - The Early Years", "The First House", "The March Forward", "Men of Delta" and "Sketches" (short informational bios of members submitting reply cards).

Dick and Charlotte alternately live in Elmore, Ohio and N. Ft. Myers, Florida, depending on the time of the year, with occasional forays back to Charleston. His connection to Charleston is an aunt of Charlotte's who still lives here, as well as her original roots just down the street from where I presently live. Dick plans to be at the Reunion, God willing. The P.S.E. Alumni Association wishes to thank you for this important donation.

## 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 complete list of names and e-mail addresses that we have are:

Jan O. Alms – galaxyjan@hci.net  
Charles E. Behl, Jr. – cbehl@childrensmemorial.org  
Jerome E. Brendel – brendell@wdgdst68.dupage.k-12.il.us  
Gary W. Brinkmeyer – psebrink@mail.stlnet.com  
Scott E. Brown – scottbrown2@juno.com  
Larry J. Carli – ljarli@aol.com  
David W. Carrell – dave.carrell@ajg.com  
William L. Crail – PilotBill@aol.com  
Kirk D. Davis – Kirk1028@keynet.net  
Roy J. Dillard – joyroy@midwest.net  
Ronald L. Doris – rdoris@mail.isbe.state.il.us  
Ron Eichhorn – RONEIC@SAFECO.com  
Michael A. Ellis – ellis.7@osu.edu  
Dan L. Endsley – dendsley@EndsleyMarketing.com  
Jeffrey M. Estes – jmestes@ix.netcom.com  
David W. Foreman – dforeman@ccsd.k12.wy.us  
Francis J. Gates – jjjjj@webtv.net  
Michael S. Goodman – nuigoodman@webtv.com  
Keith G. Gotthardt – kgg99@aol.com  
John D. Green – cookie@htv.net  
Ronald D. Grissom – rgrissom@gvc.net  
Rich Heineken – kkjrs@juno.com  
Charles L. Henry, Jr. – clhenryjr@worldnet.att.net

## 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.

Everett H. Cooley  
Harry D. Duffy

William H. Swearingen  
Melvin O. Medder

Stephen J. Houghton – SHoug1338@aol.com  
Timothy J. Kearns – rjlee@qonline.com  
Gary A. Kling – giants@tuscola.net  
Paul A. Klopfenstein – pklopfen@juno.com  
Floyd G. Leonard – fgleonard@aol.com  
Roger D. Long – rdlong@jcpenney.com  
Tim McCaughey – tmccaughey514@aol.com  
Alan K. Ortegren – aortegr@siue.edu  
Robert P. Pierce – robert.pierce@unilever.com  
Ronald R. Rami – rrami@ntech.edu  
Rick Ratliff – rcr@beecher.will.k12.il.us  
William L. Robinson – robo76eiu@aol.com  
Rick Schwabke – kirkcamp@dnnet.net  
Mike A. Snow – mas2214@midwest.net  
Jay Solheim – jaysolheim@aol.com  
Thomas E. Strong – shewami@gateway.net  
Thomas E. Swanson – TSwan60940@aol.com  
Frank W. Tate – FWTATE@iphone.net  
Richard D. Weber – dick.weber@frco.com  
John R. Ziebarth – ziebarth@nas.nasa.gov

# NINTH 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 \$24,000 the past 8 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 1999 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, 1999. 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 23, 1999  
Tennessee Tech  
1:30 p.m.