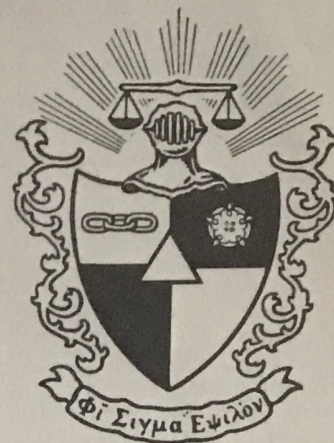




Phi Sigma Epsilon Delta Alumni Association



Vol. 12 No. 1

Gary Brinkmeyer – Editor

Spring 2002

The Case of the Missing Newsletter!

Some of you may have noted that there was no Fall, 2001 newsletter. There is a simple explanation – Money (or lack of money).

Many of you are probably not familiar with the operation of the PSE Alumni Association. Our funding is derived entirely from the proceeds of the sale of the house. That dollar amount was \$60,000. The directors have made a concerted effort to not touch the principal amount, operating the Association on the interest generated from the principal. Our reasoning is based upon the fact that once we start tapping the principal, it is the beginning of the end for the Association. Once the principal is gone, there would be no more money to operate and we would go the way of the dinosaur.

Up to now, while our budget has been tight, we have been able to generate sufficient operating income. Everyone has seen what has happened to interest rates and we have been profoundly affected by the lower rates. But for the fact that we locked in higher rates on some CD's, we would be in terrible shape. We have had to adjust our very conservative risk toler-

ance on our investments and have invested a portion of the money in a somewhat riskier, yet still fairly conservative portfolio, in hopes of generating additional income and allowing us to continue with the programs we have started. At the February 2002 directors meeting, we determined that we would be able to meet our fiscal goals for 2002. Beyond this year, the prospects are not bright.

As an organization we have made a concerted effort to not engage in the "begathons" which have become so prevalent, including the annual EIU fund raising programs. However, we are now at the point where we need to go to our constituency and ask for assistance. Do you support us in our efforts to keep the association alive, distribute periodic newsletters and provide student awards? If so, give us your thoughts about what we can do to keep things going. More importantly, if you can, provide us with whatever financial support you can. Send your comments and/or contributions to the address shown on this newsletter or feel free to contact any of the officers or directors.

Hall of Fame Inductees

Gene Everett ('72) and Larry Kanke ('68) were both inducted into the Illinois Wrestling Coaches & Officials Association Hall of Fame at their banquet held in Darien, IL on April 27, 2002. Gene was an assistant coach at several schools before becoming the head wrestling coach in Gibson City in 1975. He took a 3-year sabbatical between 1994 and 1997 to work on an advanced degree and then resumed the position of head coach at Gibson City/Melvin/Sibley HS in 1997. He will retire from his coaching duties at the end of the current school year with a career coaching record of 271-195-5. His teams have won 5 conference titles in only 10 years, in a conference that had only offered a championship tournament in the last 10 years. Overall,

Gene has had 33 state qualifiers, 8 state medalists and one state champion.

Larry began coaching and teaching at J. D. Darnell HS in Geneseo, IL after getting out of the U.S. Army in 1970. His teams have had a dual record of 393-201-4 and have won 11 NCIC Conference Championships and 5 Regional titles. He has had 66 state qualifiers and 12 state placemen, including sons Tim and Mike, who both placed twice at the state tournament. Larry has also been an IHSA wrestling official for 27 years and an official for USA Wrestling in both Freestyle and Greco-Roman. He will retire from teaching and coaching at the end of the current school year. Congratulations to both Gene and Larry!



Gene Everett and Larry Kanke.

PSE Eleventh Annual Student Awards

Sunday, August 19, 2001, dawned as a beautiful day for the presentation of monetary awards to five EIU students, whose fathers were Phi Sigs at Eastern. On this day, the PSE Alumni Association began its second decade of providing monetary assistance to those students meeting our criteria. To date, we have provided over \$33,000 of aid to students, and since the first group in 1991 received the first of many checks, there have been 28 different students from over the years that have benefited.

Receiving their second year Student Awards were Ashlee Brown, daughter of Darrell Brown of Hoopeston, Illinois; Andrew Brendel, son of Bob and Linda Brendel of Troy, Illinois and Michael Lux, son of Steve and Kathy Lux of Wheaton, Illinois. Two new students received their first Student Awards at the picnic luncheon held at the Southeast Park pavilion in Charleston. They were Sara Kasperski, daughter of Pete and Debbie Kasperski of Spring Valley, Illinois and Chris Swing, son of Dick Swing of Cissna Park, Illinois.

As has been the custom of the past, we asked the Phi Sig parent to update his family ongoing since the days of EIU and then asked the Awards recipients to also give us some insight into their studies and what they project as their future endeavor in the workplace. As might be expected from them in an environment of "being the new kid on the block", they were rather shy about their futures and themselves. Several students over the years however, took advantage of the outreach of help-when-needed extended by the PSE Alumni Assn. local officers and sought our assistance or guidance above and beyond the mone-

tary Awards they received. It is gratifying to be accorded the honor of their trust while at school and away from home. After the formal part of the presentations were over, and having had our catered picnic lunch, the informal gathering visited for awhile preceding the inevitable need to travel home or move on to other activities. Pictures were taken to document the occasion and one of those is included here.



Left to right: Dick Swing, Chris Swing, Pete Kasperski, Sara Kasperski, Darrell Brown, Ashlee Brown, Steve Lux, Michael Lux, Bob Brendel, Andrew Brendel.

PSE Tidbits

There has been some discussion in different circles about the development of a Phi Sig website that would provide access to many different venues of information relative to the PSE Alumni Assn. Since it is only talk at this stage, we thought we would throw out the concept and let you weigh in with your ideas about it. To make it work, it would have to be an ongoing effort, requiring constant updating and the commitment of time to keep it a viable venture. Let us know what you think! Our return address is on this newsletter.

Have you ever been watching TV and suddenly see someone whom you either know or who reminds you of someone you know? Well, if you watch the Fox Network and specifically "Mad TV", you may catch a glimpse of Frank Caliendo. Not the Frank Caliendo ('68) from EIU, but his namesake son who graduated from Waukesha South H.S. in 1992 and later the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He is a veteran of many comedy clubs and morning talk shows around the country and got his start on network TV on the WB's now-defunct sketch comedy "Hype". With its demise, Fox hired him for its own Saturday night sketch hour. He specializes in impressions, doing Robin Williams, Jim Carrey, William Shatner and John Madden to perfection, as well as many others and had the opportunity to do John Madden on "The Fox NFL Pregame Show". Amongst other network gigs that he has had, he also opened for Jay Leno in Hermosa Beach, CA. It looks and sounds like he is someone to keep your eye on.

The Annual Phi Sig Golf outing was held this year at the Gleneagles Country Club in Lemont, Illinois on Saturday, May 18, 2002, after being organized by Ron Eichhorn (Ike, '71). I don't know how many years it has been since it was first organized, but I'm sure it has been at least 10-12 years, with an occasional missed year (hence the notation "Annual", instead of 5th or 10th Annual). I was scheduled to bring shame to somebody's team, but unexpectedly had to return to Canada for a funeral. I even had my special tees ready to go for those tough shots out of the sand traps. I understand that a good time was had by all, all being Ron Eichhorn, Tom Swanson, Jay Solheim,

Bob Brendel and brother Jerry Brendel, Ken Dennison, Wally Kos, Steve Grishaber, Dick Carpenter, Dave Carrell, Tim Kearns, Kirk Davis, Boone Chaney, Dick Swing, Gene Everett, Keith Gotthardt, Jerry Nyckel and brother Duayne Nyckel and all the way from California, John Ziebarth. The winning team consisted of Jerry Brendel, Dick Swing and Ken Dennison with a one under par score, and additional awards were given out for the longest drive, closest to the pin and the longest putt.

New Addresses

Robert R. Alter - 7901 40th Ave. N - Lot 84, St. Petersburg, FL 33709

Tony R. Weber - 102 S. 3rd St., Altamont, IL 62411

Gerald A. Royer - 4185 N. Bloomington Ave., Apt 102, Arlington Heights, IL 60004

Leroy E. Greathouse - 1474 Adrienne Circle, Sycamore, IL 60178

Michael A. Ellis - 1256 Kieffer St., Wooster, OH, 44691 (330) 264-5867

Darrell W. Brown - 36951 Sally Ct., Hoopeston, IL 60942 (217) 748-6248

Tracy D. Lewis - 7909 E. Medlock Dr., Scottsdale, AZ 85250

Thomas P. Johnson - 101 Shasta Dr., Lake Dallas, TX 75065

Patrick L. Fairbanks - RR1, Box 93, Amber, OH 73004

Richard L. Ireland - 1341 N. Goldeneye Way, Green Valley, AZ 85614, (520) 648-1704

Royce L. Reed - 3720 W. Bluffs Road, Springfield, IL 62707

R. Gene Gresham - Unit 102, 8651 Basswood Rd., Eden Prairie, MN 55344, (952) 942-2187

Craig A. Nelson - 1420 C Stoney Meadows Dr., Valley Park, MO 63088, (636) 529-0945

David L. Ellis - 427 S. Monroe, Pittsfield, IL 62363 (217) 285-1595

Richard A. Swing - 330 Kaufmann Dr., Loda, IL 60948 (217) 386-2583

James A. Paszalek - 817 Olean Pl., Charleston, IL 61920 (217) 348-1274

PSE Camping - 30th Anniversary

For the last 29 years, a group of Phi Sigs from EIU (different years) and their respective spouses (where applicable) have gotten together in late July/early August at a campsite of their choosing. The purpose is to renew friendships, tell mostly the same old jokes, drink decreasing amounts of beer and increasing amounts of exotic drinks (vermouth-wafted), go to bed earlier and earlier, compare family photos of children/grandchildren, enjoy the air-conditioning and essentially live in the past for the weekend. This year we will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the original Camp-Out, that began as an attempt at a Pledge Class Reunion for 6 Brothers and their wives and has expanded to an average now of about 15 couples. We will meet on August 2-4, 2002 at the Eagle's Nest at Lake Shelbyville, Illinois for the 6th Annual Camp-In, preceded by the 24 Annual Camp-Outs. It became a Camp-In in 1996 when the wives were allowed to plan the 25th Anniversary get-together, and cognizant of the previous 4-out-of-5 yearly rainouts, decided that it was time to stop "roughing it" and enjoy some of the amenities we enjoy at home. Despite some early grumblings, the air-conditioning, lack of wet bedding and clothes, real furniture with a kitchen and electricity, doomed the outdoor adventure.

We invite all those who have been to previous Camp-Outs and Camp-Ins to come on by for a few hours, a whole day or the whole weekend and visit for awhile or longer. The Eagle's Nest is a totally self-contained building complex that is set away from the main Eagle Creek Motel on Lake Shelbyville, allowing us the privacy from other patrons that we desire. Saturday morning is a golf outing at the beautiful Eagle Creek, 18-hole golf course (for those so inclined) and Saturday night is our famous "Fish-Fry", with fish filets from the catch of Gene everett and all the accutritional favorites that go with it. The rest of the time is pure visiting pleasure while perusing old photos of when most of us had normal color hair, or had hair, as the case may be, amongst other physical attributes. Everybody has a great time! And is anybody else welcome, even if they've never attended in the past? ABSOLUTELY! We even have a couple rooms vacant this year (call for costs, if interested) or you can make your own plans. Even if you're coming for an hour or planning the whole weekend, let us know. Security requires us to provide a listing of the people who are visiting the area, and I suppose since 9/11, it will be even more tenuous. Call Gary or Sharon Brinkmeyer @ (217) 345-4684 to relay your plans.

A Close Call

As far as we know, the PSE Alumni Association did not lose anyone to the tragic events of September 11, 2001, in New York City. But, an altogether too close an experience befell one of our alumni, his wife and the group he was with that horrific morning. Jim Hatfield ('58) and his wife Barbara, who live in Charleston, were part of a tour group in New York City that morning. Instead of meeting an appointment on top of one of the World Trade Center towers, their guide decided to take them through the Central Park area first, coming back to the towers later, according to an article in our local paper. In the coverage of the attack since then, I have heard of many other similar-type stories, with similar results. We are thankful that their guide relied on a change-of-pace decision, but grieve for those who were lost in this terrible tragedy. Should anyone know of any PSE alumni who were not so fortunate that day, we would like to know about them.

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

President - Jim Luthé (618) 943-5341
Vice President, Treasurer - Gary Brinkmeyer (217) 345-4684
Secretary - Jeff Moore (217) 345-1687

Last of the First

On February 10, 2001, the Phi Sigma Epsilon Alumni Assn. lost an alumnus of sorts, with the death of probably the last surviving member of the group Delta Lambda Sigma, that was formed in 1928 at Eastern. That group was the predecessor to Phi Sigma Epsilon, which became the first organized fraternity at Eastern in 1930. Andrew E. Meurlot died of heart failure at the age of 95 in Decatur, Illinois, after a short convalescence following a fall-related hip injury and resulting surgery.

After graduating from what was then Eastern Illinois State Teachers College in 1929, Andrew began his teaching career in a number of local small schools, where, as his son Karl related to me, he was both the teacher and in some instances, the principal or administrator. In those earlier days, there was not the requirement for a specific administrative degree to be in that position of authority, especially in smaller towns such as Humboldt, Neoga and Scotland (IL - near Danville). In the latter community, he befriended a man named Tucker, whose grandson Otho Tucker is probably remembered as a star basketball player at the University of Illinois.

In 1945, Andrew took his teaching career and family to Decatur, IL, to begin and ultimately end his career in 1971, after 42 years of teaching. He was also a part-time instructor at Richland Community College, the local junior college in Decatur, IL.

In high school, he was a standout basketball, football and track athlete, and continued his athletic skills at Eastern in basketball and baseball. Always being the consummate lover of athletics, he was not only a teacher, but a coach on many levels in high school, even being asked to be the tennis coach for one year until a coach could be hired. After having had to be shown how to hold the racket initially, he guided that team from Decatur McArthur H.S., to a second-place finish in the state tournament. He also became very active in officiating high school basketball and football games, continuing those activities until his retirement, and ultimately being elected to the IHSA Hall of Fame. After retirement, he took up the game of golf with a passion, continuing to play it until the year before his death, when sadly, his eyesight robbed him of the pleasure. He also enjoyed competitive softball in the area and played with the likes of one of our area standouts, Merv Baker. He never missed any of the E.I.U. Hall of Fame football games for as long as they were organized.

Although never being formally initiated as a member of Phi Sigma Epsilon fraternity, he sounds like he was probably one of the original molds for membership.

Andrew is survived by a son Karl, in Decatur, IL, and a daughter Carol, in Seneca, SC, who is in real-life, married to EIU graduate and Phi Sig alumni, Kenneth R. Vick ('58), a retired high school principal from Springfield, IL.

E-mail Addresses

Dick Rodie - rrodie@na.ko.com
Mike Goodman - nuigoodman@hotmail.com
M. Gene Newport - Gnewport@uab.edu
David L. Ellis - drdave@earthlink.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.

Andrew E. Meurlot
Robert C. Gibson

Maurice T. DeMeyer
Robert A. Stump

TWELFTH ANNUAL STUDENT AWARDS

It hardly seems possible that 11 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 TWELFTH 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 \$33,000 the past 11 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 2002 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 31, 2002. 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 25, 2002 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 (____) _____
 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 _____

*Homecoming 2002
 Oct. 12, 2002
 Eastern Kentucky*

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

