

Vol. 13 No. 1

Gary Brinkmeyer - Editor

Spring 2003

Thanks For The Support!

As you know from the June, 2002 Newsletter, the PSE Alumni Assn. noted in a front page article entitled "The Case of the Missing Newsletter" that the Fall 2001 edition of the Newsletter had not been assembled. The article continued to state that the financial condition of the Association precluded that mailing, primarily due to the reduced revenues coming forth as a result of the sluggish economy and almost nothing interest rates on savings. We reluctantly were resigned to asking for a show of support from you, both constructively in your opinions and for any financial help you could offer. YOU Brothers came through on both counts and as a result of your generosity we feel as though we are in the position to be able to provide twice yearly Newsletters for at least the next two years (assuming there are no additional revenue losses on our major CD investment, i.e. call-ins. We received a total of One Thousand Four Hundred Thirty-Five dollars (\$1,435.00) from fourteen different Brothers, both from instate and also out-of-state, along with very gratifying comments directed at the PSE Alumni Assn. for its efforts in keeping the Phi Sigma Epsilon Alumni Assn. a viable legacy.

For the contributions that were mailed to the PSE Alumni Assn., we would like to acknowledge and thank the following Brothers in this Newsletter:

Dennis Vidoni - Urbana, IL Larry Smith - Centralia, IL Jay Solheim - Glenwood, IL Bob Stephenson - Taylorville, IL Mike Ford - Centralia, IL Robert E. Garner - Mandeville, LA Larry Gariepy - Golconda, IL Dick Level - Manchester, MO Thomas W. Faller - Springfield, IL Paul Waisnor - Carol Stream, IL Tom Evans - Decatur, IL Dave Panicucci - Cedar Falls, IA Jerry McChristian - Collinsville, IL Marion Randolph - Charleston, IL

I am normally reluctant to divulge financial information concerning donations made to the Alumni Assn., but I feel I must digress in this instance because of the letter that accompanied the check. Jerry McChristian sent us a donation for \$500.00 that was made in memory of Dick "Zoom" Gill, whom I personally remember as our pledge class trainer. Jerry writes in his letter, "As you may remember, Zoom created the 'Phi Sig Argives' (Our Guys) band in 1966. The original members were Dick Gill, Randy Richardson, Dave Reilly, Mike Edwards and Jerry McChristian. They played at the 4:00 O'clock Club at Roc's on Fridays and sometimes at the Sportsman Club (Sporty's), the Student Union, in Mattoon and at fraternity parties." He goes on to say "Dick was a very quiet individual and was well liked by everyone. His trademark was placing his lit cigarette in the neck of his guitar while he played. As you know, Dick passed away at a young age. Even though it has been thirty plus years, I remember him all the time."

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Finally Retired!

I sit here on this day, Monday, June 9, 2003, busily trying to put the final touches on what is already a long overdue Spring Newsletter and contemplating the first official day of my new lifestyle, a.k.a. RETIREMENT! Friday, June 6, 2003, represented my own personal D-Day (6/6/44) from the workplace and the beginnings of what I hope can be an increased time of service to the organization of BROTHERS I love the most.

I want to apologize for the inconsistency in getting these Newsletters out to you. Not only were our financial difficulties a problem at one time, but my own difficulties in getting focused on the job at hand were being compromised by my efforts to visit my family and grandson Graham as much as possible, travel and ready myself for the big "R". With the sudden unburdening of 40+ hours per week, I plan to rededicate myself to the PSE Alumni Assn., especially in the area of finding as many good addresses as possible or in the final analysis, the disposition of our bretheren who have passed on. If there are agendas or issues that you wish to see as part of the Newsletter or that you wish to address specifically to me, please don't hesitate to bring them to my attention or the attention of the PSE Board of Directors at the address on this Newsletter.

Now that a great many of us so-called "baby-boomers" are approaching retirement age, as well as those that are firmly established in retirement already, a new avenue of stories about those retirees will be sought as a regular feature in the Newsletter. Gene Newport ("Chief" - '57) wrote a nice letter suggesting that the stories of "things retirees are doing" would be a great idea. Running with that idea would be the thought that they could not only be informative and enjoyable, but also a connection to a long lost "roomie" or friendship overlooked through the years of work and family that can be rekindled. Thanks Gene! Your story will be among the first in the Fall '03 Newsletter.

The 31st Annual PSE Campout (I mean Campin)

This year will mark the 31st anniversary of a PSE Brothers (and wives) get-together that marked its beginnings as an attempt at a Pledge Class Reunion a few years after graduating from EIU. It is affectionately called a Campout, mainly because we really did rough it in tents and sleeping bags for 24 hot, wet, sweltering, bug infested years. We call it a Campin now, because with the impending 25th anniversary (6 years ago), we Brothers of faithful outdoor attendance decided to let the ladies in our lives plan the yearly soiree and they decided air conditioning, a great view from a "Great room", indoor plumbing and a king/queen size bed was their future for camping. Some of us Brothers grizzled over these plans for a year or two, but now our biggest complaints are in keeping the AC too warm (68-70 is a good range), the small size of the kitchen refrigerator and the adjacent water closet that isn't potty-trained yet.

The 3-day weekend begins this year on July 25 and culminates on July 27, 2003, at the Eagle's Nest Retreat at beautiful Lake Shelbyville in central Illinois. It isn't free (except for all the great memories you will leave with), but there is still some room availability and I can provide you information. Call me at (217) 345-4684 or write me at the PSE address shown on this Newsletter. Confirmed already are Jeff Estes, Dave Carrell, Gene Everett, Bob Kincade, Tom Swanson, Jay Solheim, Charlie Henry, Larry Carli, Paul Klopfenstein, Jim Luthe, Mike Goodman and me, Gary Brinkmeyer, as well as our wives, significant others or neither. Saturday morning golf gets a lot of cheap talk and action going and it cheapens from there, while we proceed to regress and live in the past through the rest of the evening. After a filling dinner of Everett's fish, Brinks corn-on-the-cob, Luthe "Big Boy" tomatoes and an asundry assortment (say that 3 times fast) of everybody elses provided food, it is the perfect Potluck dinner. Come and join us, but let us know in advance because the security people prefer that.

PSE Tidbits

After presenting the story entitled "Hall of Fame Inductees" in the Spring 2002 PSE Newsletter, I received a very thoughtful letter from Dennis Vidoni (1968) stating that the story on Larry Kanke reminded him to think of his own cousin, Gene Vidoni, who was inducted into the EIU Hall of Fame on September 8, 2001. I had forgotten to make any mention of that honor accorded only a few special alumni and even fewer Phi Sig Brothers. Some additional details on that induction that I overlooked are as follows, as reprinted from our local newspaper of that date:

"Gene Vidoni, Class of 1965 with a master's in '74, was a baseball/football standout who went on to earn significant coaching honors at Casey-Westfield High School. Lettering six times at EIU from 1960 through '65, Vidoni was an honorable mention Little All-American defensive end in 1964, team Most Valuable Player, Peoria Journal Star All-State and First Team All IIAC. He was also team MVP in baseball as a catcher in '65 and Second Team All Conference.

Following graduation he played in the San Francisco Giants minor league system. Vidoni started the baseball program at Casey High School where he taught and coached from 1969 through 2000.

He is a member of the Illinois High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame, and received special recognition for 25 years service from the American College Baseball Coaches Association. In 1995 and 1999, Vidoni was chosen to Who's Who Among American Teachers. He currently is retired and resides in Bossier City, La."

Support

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I do not mean to denegrate in any way, the other contributions that were made to the Alumni Assn. and the positive and gracious comments accompanying them. I only make mention of this letter because it touched the essence of what I think the Alumni organization is all about. As an active, we had friendships and relationships that are still standing the test of time. The articles in the Newsletters are the primary testament to that observation, insasmuch as we still desire to "live in the past" at various types of get-togethers, from reunions to golf outings, to camping escapades, etc.

Thank you all for your continued faith and support in this ongoing effort, the Phi Sigma Epsilon Delta Alumni Association Newsletter.

Gene, I apologize for the oversight of time, but these types of honors have no statute of limitations anyway, so Congratulations from the PSE Alumni Assn. And to you Dennis, thanks for the upbeat, insightful letter and encouragement – it's always appreciated.

New Board Member – At the February 23, 2003, P.S.E. Board of Directors meeting held in Charleston at the home of Gary Brinkmeyer, the issue of New Business arose near the end of the meeting. With the advent of the new website for the Phi Sigma Epsilon Alumni Assn. being assimilated and managed by Larry Carli ("Carls" – '67), our computer website guru, it seemed only practical that he be nominated to the Board in order to seek his input on a regular basis. There being no dissent to this proposal, he was nominated, contacted, was willing to serve and will attend the next meeting on June 22, 2003, again at the home of Gary Brinkmeyer.

The first of two inductees into the EIU Journalism Hall of Fame in October of 2001 was Jim Hanks ('47), a former editor of the *Daily Eastern News* who was chosen because of his excellence as an editor and because he led a distinguished career with continued support to the university. Jim started at Eastern when there were no journalism classes, the closest thing being some modified English classes that were called 101J and 102J.

Because of time spent in the military, his projected 1944 graduation actually took place in 1947, when he graduated with a major in social science (history-oriented) and a double minor in English and business (denoted as commerce at that time). After working as a teacher in several schools and serving as a principal for 5 years, Jim changed gears and began working for State Farm Insurance in Jackson, MS in 1953. After retiring in 1988, he could look back on a 35-year career that encompassed work in five different states for State Farm and culminated in his final position as a regional vice president for the state of Indiana. Presently living in West Lafayette in retirement, Jim has three children and eight grandchildren who, no doubt, share time with him.

Prior recognition accorded to Jim was his receipt of a Distinguished Alumni Award in 1987 and being cited as one of 100 individuals who had distinguished the university in its first 100 years, that being presented during Eastern's Centennial celebration in 1996.

Congratulations Jim, from the PSE Alumni Assn., upon being inducted into the EIU Journalism Hall of Fame and also upon your previous recognitions from Eastern.

Persistence Pays Off!

In the Summer of 2001, "Boone" Chaney (Gaylen, not Dwayne) and friend Nancy Britton set off on a vacation of discovery to North Dakota, in search of an old fraternity brother who was in school with him and from whom he had lost touch over the 35 years. His elusive search was to find Gordon ("Gordy") Quill ('67) with only a few scraps of paper that turned out to contain a wrong phone number and an old address (pre-911 changes) in Mandan, North Dakota. After stopping and asking seven different people and finally given directions that were 10 miles off from the original presumed homestead, they pulled up to a home with a young man looking out the window and knew that they had found Gordy's son. Gordy's ex-wife Carol took them back into town to find Gordy, who was working that day as a brand inspector for the cattle at an auction barn in Mandan. A note on the back of the picture shown here states that Gordy also has a horse and cattle ranch with an inside arena, can fix anything and also delivers nitrogen for artificial insemination. What a great story! And what a great pursuit to find an old friend! They visited for a few days before Boone and Nancy left for other places of interest in their extended, but final journey together, Sadly, Nancy died of cancer complications shortly after returning to Charleston.



Pictured above - Boone Chaney and Gordy Quill.

Pellet Packs a Lot of Lead

Imagine my surprise in being able to attend the Illinois Association of School Administrators conference in Chicago with my wife Sharon (Regional Office of Education) as a getaway for me, and then being able to rub elbows, as it were, with another Phi Sig Brother. Jerry Brendel ("Pellet" - '73) and I were able to converse for a little bit, but it wasn't because he had a lot of time to spare. You see, Jerry is the Superintendent of the Woodridge School District #68 in Woodridge, IL, and the President of the Illinois Association of School Business Officials.

Paraphrasing an article in the IASA Newsletter, Jerome E. Brendel was also elected to a three-year term on the Governing Board of the Association of School Business Officials International during its October ('02) annual meeting. ASBO International, founded in 1910, has as its primary mission to provide programs and service to promote the highest standards of school business management practices through professional growth and the effective use of education resources and has about 6500 members worldwide.

Continuing on from the article "Prior to becoming a superintendent in 2001, Brendel worked as District 68's Assistant Superintendent of Business for ten years. Previously, he also served as business manager at both Edwardsville CUSD #4 in Edwardsville and Glenbard THSD #87 in Glen Ellyn. Prior to those business manager experiences, Brendel was a superintendent, assistant principal, science teacher and coach. Brendel resides in Naperville with his wife Karen and son Zachary, who is a senior at Naperville Central High School."

Jerry, your organization really knows how to put on a class conference and although I wasn't involved in most of it on a professional level, I enjoyed visiting with a lot of people there for the meetings and exhibits/exhibitors. Congratulations to you for the attainment of some lofty goals in your career.

A Life Well Lived

She was born on March 22, 1914 and was lost to the ages on November 3, 2002, succumbing to the effects of a stroke suffered some five months earlier.

Stella Foreman was a grand lady who was admired and loved by all who had the experience to know her. Although unknown to many of you who are reading this Newsletter, she was a fixture of popularity and respect for many Phi Sigs during the decade of the Sixties, especially the earlier 60's. She and her son David, along with a myriad of college men renting rooms from her over the years and her "special" Phi Sig boys kept the 1436 Seventh Street address an in-place to be. You see, Dave Foreman ('66) was a Phi Sig brother and Stella was the embodiment of a Phi Sig Mom to all who knew her at that time. And did I mention her other love – a small beagle dog she named Siggy. Stella loved animals, especially dogs and spent many hours, even days, dog or cat-sitting for friends who trusted her.

I lived at Stella's home for the first year while attending Eastern, followed by three years at the Phi Sig House. Both residences conjure up special memories, but her home and its visitors became the impetus for my pledging Phi Sigma Epsilon. Many of Dave's Phi Sig friends would congregate at her home on any given night, but it seemed especially true on Sundays when a group gathered to work on homework or grab a bite to eat next door and bring it back to Stella's. Her home and its refrigerator always seemed to be open for her "boys". Some of those old Phi Sigs that frequented her home were Bob Hoffek, Tom Homma, Roger McCoy, Mike LaGesse, Loren Hunsaker, and many more whose names escape me at this time. Being at Stella's house was just like being at your own home and Stella was everybody's surrogate mother while you were at school. And school was just across the street too. Her address put her home next to Short Stop restaurant on the north (towards Roc's). Today it is Domino's Pizza, but Old Main is still across the Lincoln Ave. four-lane.

Stella was a school teacher, primarily in the Charleston school district. Over her 36-year teaching span after graduating from Eastern, she taught first grade for 29 of those years in the same room at the old Lincoln elementary school. After "retiring" in 1979, she volunteered for weekly work at the Tarble Arts Center, read weekly to groups of children and listened to them read to her and traveled with her friends. Because Stella and I shared a same birthdate, we always got together on that day. She insisted on babysitting my own children every year on New Year's Eve until they were both out of high school, so that Sharon and I could go out for awhile and know that they were in the safest hands. That was the kind of lady she was. I miss her kindly smile, her gentle laugh and her love of life, but mostly I will miss her friendship.

PSE Twelfth Annual Student Awards

On Sunday, August 25, 2002, the twelfth annual Phi Sigma Epsilon Student Awards presentation was held at the Sister City pavilion in Charleston, Illinois. From being spoiled again on an absolutely beautiful day, the gathered group of PSE Board members, the Student Awardees, their parent(s) and welcome guests enjoyed the traditional catered picnic lunch with the sought-after brownies for dessert. Because the group has included some of the same faces for the last few years, it has also become somewhat of a regathering of old acquaintances sprinkled with the occasional new faces to make up the new grouping. With the completion of the dinner and some downtime to just mix and converse, the time was at hand for the real purpose of this gathering, that being the presentation of the PSE Student Awards.

Receiving their second year Student Awards were Chris Swing, son of Dick Swing of Cissna Park, Illinois and Ellen Swing of Charleston, Illinois, and Sara Kasperski, daughter of Pete and Debbie Kasperski of Spring Valley, Illinois. Having been here an additional year, were Ashlee Brown, daughter of Darrell Brown of Hoopeston, Illinois, and Michael Lux, son of Steve and Kathy Lux of Wheaton, Illinois, who both received their third year Student Awards. The final awardee was a new freshman at ElU this year, Matthew Wills, son of Robin and Cindy Wills of Geneva, Illinois, receiving his first Student Award. Each student received a check for 500 dollars, as has been the tradition in the past whenever feasible. To date, we have now been able to help out EIU students with Phi Sig dads to the tune of \$35,000 plus.

The time is near approaching when we as a Board must reconcile our position on the probability that we are going to run out of students with the Phi Sig Dad connection. After all, there were no more PSE Alumni after 1986 at Eastern Illinois University and if you do the math, you will find that the potential pool of eligible students could potentially come to a demise within the next five or so years. The comical thought within the PSE Board of Directors was that when that day arrives, we are going to have a big kegger or pizza party with our investments. Some serious thoughts about this have come from area Phi Sigs who have also wondered about the viability of this alumni organization, once the present dedicated group diminishes due to attrition or the ultimate. Food for thought and consideration!

In the meantime, the PSE Alumni Assn. is now accepting applicants for the awarding of monetary assistance in the form of the Student Awards for the thirteenth consecutive year. The Student Awards Information questionnaire is on the back of this Newsletter, along with other pertinent information, such as the submittal date for inclusion in this year's awards.

















Left ro right: Cindy Wills, Matthew Wills, Michael Lux, Robin Wills, Sara Kasperski, Pete Kasperski, Ashlee Brown, Darrell Brown, Chris Swing, Dick Swing.

75-Year Anniversary Reunion

Initial discussions and planning have begun for the celebration of the 75th Anniversary Reunion of the Phi Sigma Epsilon Alumni Association. We are tentatively targeting the mid to later June period of 2005, again to be held either in Charleston or nearby. Some initial investigations have begun, including the availability of the date, since long term planning often goes into the assignment of facilities as much as 18-24 months ahead. We will continue to keep you informed of the planning as it proceeds. Some insight from you fellow Brothers is always appreciated and helps us in planning what we hope may be the MOAR (military jargon for "Mother of all Reunions").

E-mail Addresses

Jim Luthe - jim.luthe@aes.com Otto Daech - ohdaech@charter.net Jim Davis - jmdavis@intermind.net Robin Wills - jazzstorm@aol.com Jim Paszalek - jimCSG@aol.com Gary Brinkmeyer - psebrink@mchsi.com

New Addresses

- Larry E. Gariepy RR#3, Box 127, Golconda, IL 62938 (618) 683-9015
- Thomas A. Evans 1190 S. Joynt Rd., Decatur, IL 62522
- Thomas C. Schreck 9050 Las Haderas Dr. #202, Bonita Springs, FL 34135
- Craig A. Nelson 6221 Northwood Ave. 3W, St. Louis, MO 63105 (314) 726-5973
- George R. Herr 530 Orchard Lake Drive, Rushville, IL 62681
- Nelson T. McMullen 640 Gooseberry Dr. Unit 708, Longmont, CO 80503
- Orval S. Spurlin 616 E. Fellows St., Dixon, IL 61021
- Ray E. Schaljo 3 Bayhill Dr., Sullivan, IL 61951
- Douglas S. LaBelle 3920 47th Ave., Kenosha, WI 53144
- Ronald A. Debolt 40 S. Centennial St., Zeeland, MI 49464
- James E. Leffler 830 John St., Lemont, IL 60439
- Robert J. Bass 1738 Arborwood Dr., Florence, KY 41042
- Paul E. Anderko 2489 Sandy Ridge Run, Rock Hill, S.C. 29732
- James A. Paszalek 2962 Baby Ruth Ln., Nashville, TN 37013
- Gene E. Everett 207 E. 550 North Rd., Gibson City, IL 60936
- John Ziebarth 3112 Vista Sandia, Santa Fe, NM 87506 (505) 820-6439
- Ken Dennison 6340 Americana Drive #620, Willowbrook, IL 60527 (630) 794-0257

Phi Sigma Epsilon Alumni Association Delta P.O. Box 931, Charleston, IL 61920 President - Jim Luthe (618) 943-5341 Vice President, Treasurer - Gary Brinkmeyer (217) 345-4684

Secretary - Tom Swanson (815) 465-6055

PSE OPEN – A Big Hit

Sixteen Brother golfers (15 golfers, 1 novice - me) converged on May 17, 2003, at the Gleneagles Country Club in Lemont, IL for a marathon 6-hour golf outing, and that was during a perfect weather day playing best ball. How is that possible, you ask? Well, there were some foursome delays in front of us and frankly, some pretty challenging holes that included one unbelievable Par 4, 500+ yd. hole with a strategically placed lake to mess up your second shot. Jerry Brendel ("Pellet") kept saying that whoever wins this is only going to come in with a one-under score, while doing his best to carry our foursome of himself, Boone Chaney, Dick Carpenter and myself. The winning foursome of Kirk Davis, Keith Gotthardt, Ken Dennison and Jim Luthe just about matched the winning prediction, actually coming in with a two-under par score for the top prize. Other monetary prizes were doled out for longest putt, longest drive, shortest drive and closest to the pin. The other foursomes included Tim Kearns, Dave Carrell, Gene Everett, Tom Swanson, Jay Solheim, Steve Grishaber, Wally Kos and our organizer host for this year, Ron Eichhorn. Even though it was a long afternoon, everybody had a great time, both on the course and afterwards for some beer and a meal in the Clubhouse. This golf outing (in about its 10th year) has become somewhat of a tradition in mid-May at any of a number of different courses in the area and is hosted by a different Brother each year. It's a great opportunity to shed those winter blues, so if you're interested for next year, keep it in mind and contact anybody listed above or me at the PSE address on the Newsletter.

Phi Sigma Epsilon Website

We're on the Web! Discussions about the PSE Alumni Assn. having its own website had been going on for some time, but finally started to come together last year at our annual Camp 'in. Larry Carli ("Carls" – '67) is into that kind of computer knowhow and volunteered to take it on for the PSE Alumni Assn. The website can be accessed at

http://members.empowering.com/ljcarli

to see the preliminary pages and design. Anything that you would like to see on the web about PSE for distribution can be brought to his attention. We hope to put Newsletters, pictures (new and old), event dates and historical information about PSE on it (pledge classes, etc.). Larry can be contacted in the following manners: Larry Carli – 5177 N. State Rt. 159, Edwardsville, IL 62025 (618) 659-1580 or e-mail him at – Ijcarli@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.

Obed W. Henderson

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL STUDENT AWARDS

It hardly seems possible that 12 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 THIRTEENTH 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 \$35,000 the past 12 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 2003 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 15, 2003. 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 24, 2003 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.	Address	
	City	State Zip
	Telephone ()	PHI SIGMA EPSILON INFO.
	Year Graduated from EIU	Pledge Class Year
	Years Attended EIU-19 to 19	Active Member-19 to 19
STUDENT INFO.	Name	
	Address	
	City	State Zip
	Telephone ()	SSN
	Projected EIU Start Date (Semester)	
	Projected EIU Graduation	

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