



Phi Sigma Epsilon Delta Alumni Association



Vol. 13 No. 2

Gary Brinkmeyer – Editor psebrink@mchsi.com

Winter 2003

75th Anniversary Reunion - June 10-12, 2005

The Phi Sigma Epsilon Alumni Assn. will celebrate its 75th year of existence at Eastern Illinois University in the year 2005. To mark that auspicious occasion, the PSE Alumni Assn. will host a 75th Anniversary Reunion on June 10-12, 2005 in Charleston. This reunion will be similar to those reunions that were held in the years 1996 and 2000, where those who attended experienced a great weekend of re-acquaintances with old and new Brothers and all the associated activities.

The epicenter of all the main activities will again be the Charleston Best Western Motel & Convention Center (formerly

Worthington Inn & Holiday Inn) on the west side of the City. We have already reserved the facilities for the hospitality room, banquet rooms and have a guaranteed rate structure for the room availability in place. We will provide all that pricing information in the Spring 2004 Newsletter and also with much more information about the whole Reunion experience.

Now that you have a date provided to you, be sure to get it reserved in your future events calendar, your PDA or whatever you use for scheduling. It will again be a great time, made all the more special because it is our 75th Anniversary.

Late Again – Blame It On Retirement!

Once again, I find myself explaining the lateness of this normally produced and mailed Fall '03 Newsletter, because there is yet to be mailed a Spring 2004 Newsletter.

When I announced my retirement from the Workplace in the Spring 2003 Newsletter (June), I envisioned all the extra time that I would have to devote to other activities that I enjoy, the Newsletter among them. Although many people that I talked to informed me that they were actually busier in retirement than before, it was hard to contemplate that, unless they were going right into another workplace environment, either full or part-time. But it's true! I have found that I am busier than before. True, it is due to a complete restructuring of our daily lives and activities (I

say our, because my wife Sharon also retired last June). For us, it has meant a lot of traveling, separately and together, as well as getting the youngest son through college and spending much more time with our grandsons (and their parents too) in Iowa. Did I say grandsons? Yes, we have another grandson (Mitchell Douglas Brinkmeyer – born Sept. 17, 2003) and he too has more hair than his grandpa.

Many other activities have contributed to the lateness of this Newsletter, but in general it was my lack of focus to get on this early and get it done. For that, I would like to apologize to all of you and hereby pledge that my efforts to produce and mail this within a proper time schedule will have to change.

Road Warrior

This past Summer at the Annual Phi Sig Camp-In, I received a copy of an article that was gleaned from the *Chicago Tribune Magazine*, dated January 26, 2003, (page 8). It seems appropo to make mention of this article at this time, not only because Chicago just received their first substantial snowfalls of the winter, but because it is an interview with Wally Kos, an EIU Phi Sig who graduated in 1971, and who presently is the Cook County Highway Superintendent and also oversees snow removal. Having been in that position now for six years, I'm sure he could relay some unbelievable experiences from that time, but I will adhere to the text of the article and just relay his responses to several questions. When asked "Do you look forward to snow season?", he responds "I pray for no snow, but my maintenance crew and my kids pray for it. There's a lot of competition out there when it snows and lots of overtime, which feeds the competition." His response to "How much do you and your crew maintain?" yielded "About 500 lane-miles of highway system . . .

We've got five maintenance field districts with approximately 50 people in each . . . When there's a snowstorm we've got about 60 to 70 pieces of equipment out there." And to the question "What do you like most about your job?", he replies "It's never knowing what's coming at me day to day . . . There's [snowplow] drivers out there who've been doing this for 20 years. They do good work that often goes unappreciated. When we do our work, it doesn't hit the news."

Personally speaking as a friend, I daresay that Wally's efforts are greatly appreciated by the majority of those affected by his department staff and equipment. However, the double-edged sword of appreciation and complaints sometimes cuts deepest on the negative side of effort put forth, as there will always be those who complain about anything. It has been my observation though, that if his work attitude reflects his Brotherly attitude, we have the right man on the job.

Retirement Adventures – A New Area To Explore

With the recent onset of retirements within the so-called "baby-boomers" (my generation), there naturally comes to mind the question, "What are we doing in our retirement years." Apart from the Christmas card updates that I and everybody else receives from their age-group peers, there are still an awful lot of unknown and probably fascinating stories of Brothers in retirement all over the country that most of us are not privy to. This new column will begin to seek out and present through the biannual Newsletter, stories of young and older alike retirees, from whatever sources we can elucidate this information. The best source would obviously be YOU, so if you fit within the retirement niche and would like to share some information about yourself and your goings-on, write to us at the address on this Newsletter or as some have already done, e-mail me at pse-brink@mchsi.com. Okay, here we go.

M. Gene Newport actually sent me the information contained herein just after the birth of my first grandson (over 2 years ago), so I must profusely apologize to him for not getting this disseminated to you, but at the same time thank him for putting forth his thoughts that evolved into this column. Gene graduated from EIU in 1957 and then attended the Univ. of Illinois, where he completed his Masters and Ph.D. while teaching as a Grad Assistant. He took a full-time faculty position at the Univ. of Nebraska-Omaha in 1962 and in 1971 moved to Birmingham, AL in a position at the Univ. of Alabama. He retired at age 62 in August 1997 after 40 years of teaching and administrative duties at 3 different universities.

With retirement life ahead of him, Gene started doing something in fun, that within the workplace he was paid to do. Most of us know that modern academics are generally expected to generate professional articles or books for publication, and Gene fulfilled that obligation, authoring, co-authoring or editing seven textbooks. Now bereft of academic pressures, he decided to write a fun book about management called "Management: Up, Down and Inside Out". He published it with 1stBooks Library in Bloomington, IN, a firm that is the largest distributor of electronic books in the world, so if you desire you can download it on your computer, but it can also be purchased in a paperback version worldwide. It was copyrighted in 1997 and published in January 2000. Now having gotten the writing bug and working with 1stBooks again, he took on and completed a second book, called "Country Music for Laughin', Lovin', and Livin' It Up", which was published in July 2001. A press release entitled "Former Business School Dean Goes Country" offers an author's note stating, "This book's about country music, but it ain't like nothin' you've ever laid your eyes on before. It's chock-full of song lines about heartthrobs and love . . . A few may make you laugh 'til you cry, and many will have you day-dreamin' in the middle of the night." The rest of the press release takes up about a page and I will forward it to you upon request, but the little blurb above is enticing enough to check it out.

Gene is originally from Albion, IL, but now calls Birmingham home and is "Grandpa" to five grandchildren. Until he became a Phi Sig at EIU, his nickname had always been "Newp", but at the same time he was in school at Eastern there was another member of a different fraternity named Neupert, and so you can imagine the problem. He states that the PSE Brothers thought he needed another nickname and Bud Sanders ('56) suggested "Chief". It stuck, although Gene confesses he doesn't know why.

If you want to get in touch with Gene, he can be reached at 3519 Thornhill Drive, Birmingham, AL 35243 (205) 969-3337 or e-mail him at Gnewport@uab.edu.

Ken Vick ('58) sent a letter of interest and information to me after reading the story about my retirement, with the mention of

Gene Newport in it, in the spring 2003 Newsletter. Gene is Ken's "Big Brother" and Ken's wife Carol is the daughter of Andy Meurlot, who upon his death was the subject of an article in the Spring 2002 Newsletter entitled "Last of the First".

Ken states in his letter that "In keeping with the fact that I always listened to Gene back then for obvious reasons, understood only by those who went through Hell Week, I'll submit the following", going on to relay some retirement information. Ken was involved in education in Springfield, IL for 35 years, with the last 10 years as Principal of Springfield High School. Two years later in 1995, he and Carol moved to Seneca, SC to begin a second career. Since that time they have been involved in a residential construction business with their son Scott. More information and their story is part of a magazine article that can be found as part of their website: www.vickconstruction.com.

Ken can be contacted at 105 Wynwood Court, Seneca, SC 29672 (864) 888-3819.

Giving into retirement would seem to be the easy path of choice for most of us, but not necessarily for **Gary Collins** ('67), who admitted to being a basketball coach "junkie" in the hometown Charleston newspaper last summer. After officially retiring from the staff as a teacher in Crystal Lake, IL and leaving the basketball program as head coach (19 years), as well as 6 years in complementing capacities, he also was rethinking about coaching when self-perceived weaknesses made him unsure of the future. When the coach who replaced Gary earlier on, himself left in Summer 2003 for a nearby school coaching job, it left the door open for a decision. Obviously, Crystal Lake South High School didn't see any "weaknesses" in Gary Collins being the head coach again and snapped him up.

So now the retired teacher and basketball coach "junkie" has a new mandate with an old, familiar school. Previously, his preparation time for midweek games took some 6-8 hours, but with teaching retirement, he now has more time to scour tapes and formulate a "game plan". He also has the opportunity to further impact the lives of many students, when responding "They know what they're getting with me". Perhaps the greatest impact though, may be the fact that his son Brett is now a member of the coaching staff under his Dad's tutelage at Crystal Lake South. And what of the additional time left to Gary during his days of retirement? Well, he returned for the 23rd year in a row to EIU's high school team camp last Summer, bringing with him two varsity A division entries, a varsity B division entry, a junior varsity team and a freshman team, entitling Crystal Lake South the proclamation of the best represented high school in the camp. It sounds like Gary, who is already an Illinois Basketball Coaches Assn. Hall of Famer, still has a lot to offer both his high school basketball program and the EIU Summer programs, and I would venture a guess that he won't allow enough time for the "moss to grow under his feet". After all, he is an "admitted basketball junkie".

If you want to talk retirement or basketball with Gary, he can be reached at 972 Sutherland Dr., Crystal Lake, IL 60014 (815) 459-2647 or by e-mail: gcollins@owc.net.

Hershel Wagner ('49) sent an e-mail to our PSE Alumni Assn. President Jim Luthe, informing him of some information and requesting some other details, while sending us a short column on his retirement life.

"Hersh" and wife Anne live in a gated community called Columbia Lakes Resort & Conference Center, located just north of Hwy 35 and east of the Nolan Ryan Expressway about 10 miles, and about 50 miles south of Houston in West Columbia, TX. Having just built a new home in the Summer of '97, they now live right on a golf course, just a little distance south of #6

continued on next page

EIU Distinguished Alumnus "One of Our Own"

William L. Robinson ('76), better known as "Robo" to everyone who knows him, was back in Charleston, IL on Saturday, October 25, 2003, as part of a group of six EIU graduates to receive the EIU 2003 Distinguished Alumni Award. This award begins by an alumnus being nominated for the award, but ultimately the winners are chosen by the EIU Alumni Assn. and have been since 1973. Being contacted by the Alumni Association's Executive Director Steve Rich, was his first inkling that he had even been nominated. The stipulations for nomination are that the nominee becomes eligible after six years as an alumnus and that he (she) shall have achieved or accomplished something of importance in their career or lives since graduating.

That can certainly be said of "Robo". He presently lives in California, where he is the Vice-President/General Manager of one of eight business units in the Pepsi Bottling Group dynasty, heading up over 3600 employees and amassing annual sales over one billion (that's a "b") dollars. He is in his 20th year with the Pepsi group and previous to that was with the Texas Instruments and Johnson & Johnson companies.

In a phone conversation recently with Bill, he relayed the following anecdotal incident. After receipt of the plaque and recognition at halftime of the EIU Homecoming football game, Bill proceeded back to the press-box above O'Brien Field with several of the other distinguished alumni in the elevator. It turns out that in their brief visitation amongst themselves, they determined that they were a Phi Sig, a Sigma Pi and a Pike (Pi Kappa Alpha) within a few years of each other, at which point someone laughingly questioned the likelihood of those three groups being rec-

ognized at the same time at EIU. You probably had to be in school at that time to understand the humor in that story, but the veracity of the comment rang true.

Bill lives in Danville, CA, with his wife Susan (Lagerbom - '80 - EIU Alpha Gamma Delta) and high school freshman daughter, while the oldest son is a junior at Fresno St. and a younger son is a freshman at Univ. of Nevada (Reno). He can be reached at 205 Murcia Ct., Danville, CA 94506 (925) 648-9134 or by e-mail: robo76eiu@aol.com or robo76@pacbell.net.



Seated in the car left to right: Distinguished Alumnus Bill "Robo" Robinson ('76) and Chauffeur Gary "Klinger" Kling ('76) in the Homecoming parade.

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

E-mail Addresses

Jerry Malkowski - jmalowski@comcast.net
Monte Popham - mpopham@1stacess.net
Tom Humphrey - humphrey@ecentral.com
Denny Phegley - denny.phegley@nationalcity.com
Grep Lipe - lippofam1@consolidated.net
Steve Whitley - cslsw@eiu.edu
Roger Long - rlongspringfield@msn.com
Hershel Wagner - hwagner@awesomenet.net
John Ziebarth - jpziebarth@yahoo.com

Retirement . . . continued from previous page

green with a provision that nobody can build behind them to block the view of the area. It certainly seems to beg the question, "Are we in heaven?" "Hersh" states that while he could golf almost year-round, it does get pretty hot in the summer months of May-November, but it doesn't stop him from playing at least three to four times per week. He notes that he and Anne still traverse back to the home area of Lawrenceville, IL a couple of times per year to attend class reunions and does hope to attend the Phi Sig 75th Anniversary Reunion in June 2005. Hershel can be reached at 324 N. Amherst Dr., West Columbia, TX 77486 or by e-mail at : hwagner@awesomenet.net.

Newsletters Available!

This issue of the P.S.E. Alumni Association Newsletter represents the twenty-third 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.

New Addresses

Roger Long - 5201 Turnstone Rd., Springfield, IL 62707 (217) 726-0943
Timothy K. Huber - 21349 E. 27th Rd., Rosamond, IL 62083 (217) 563-2552
Thomas L. Huber - 15037 N. 9th Ave., Hillsboro, IL 62049 (217) 532-9365
John Ziebarth - 3112 Vista Sandia, Santa Fe, NM 87506 (505) 820-6439

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.

Dean B. Davis

Gail L. Lathrop

PSE Thirteenth Annual Student Awards

Sandwiched between two oppressively hot and humid weeks, the weekend Sunday was a gloriously refreshing day to behold and a perfect day to gather and pass out some financial award money. It was Sunday, August 24, 2003, and for the thirteenth year in a row, the Phi Sigma Epsilon Alumni Assn. assembled a catered picnic luncheon for those awardees who were selected, as well as their parents. It was probably a trip made back to Charleston with some trepidation on that Sunday, having been back on the previous Thursday to help new freshmen move into the dorm in some cases (Pat Wesley comes to mind) or moving their older children into apartments. That Thursday was possibly the hottest, stickiest day of the year. However, Sunday presented itself as a day with minimal humidity and a light breeze competing with the beautiful sunshine and average temperatures.

The ratio of past awardees with a new group of awardees changed the complexion of the group of students and the visiting parents this year. Whereas in past years, there were almost always more returning awardees than new students, this year was different, with one-half of the awardees being incoming freshmen. And you know what that means? Barring any unforeseen circumstances, we will probably continue to financially assist at least three students through four years of college. Having just completed paying for 4.5 years of college myself, I know what that surely means for families with college-age children.

Receiving their first year Student Awards as

incoming freshmen at EIU were Robert Grigsby, son of Robert ("Yogi") and Kathy Grigsby of Orland Park, Illinois; Ryan Lipe, son of Greg ("Lippo") and Joyce Lipe of Hillsboro, Illinois and Melissa Beth Wesley, daughter of Pat ("Dawg") Wesley and Karen Greenwald of Granite City, Illinois. Having been here an additional year and receiving his second year Student Award was Matthew Wills, son of Robin and Cindy Wills of Geneva, Illinois. Completing their final year of the college experience, we are pleased again to have been able to assist two seniors with their fourth and final Student Awards. They are: Ashlee Brown, daughter of Darrell Brown of Hoopeston, Illinois, and Michael Lux, son of Steve ("Soapy") and Kathy Lux of Wheaton, Illinois. Each student received a check for \$500 for the year, and with this distribution of financial Awards, we have now made available more than \$38,000 over the years to EIU students with a Phi Sig Dad.

After partaking of the lunch and passing out the Student Awards, those present took advantage of the afore-mentioned beautiful weather to visit for a bit. Pictures were taken inside the pavilion and after using some of the height available to us, the PSE Alumni Assn. backdrop banner was moved outside and pictures were also taken there of the students and their Dad's. We look forward to sending out the Spring '04 Newsletter with the informational questionnaire in it for making application for the next group of Student Awardees in the Summer.



Left to right: Greg Lipe, Bob Grigsby, Ryan Lipe, Robert Grigsby, Pat Wesley, Matthew Wills, Melissa Wesley, Robin Wills, Gary Brinkmeyer, Michael Lux, Steve Lux, Ashlee Brown, Darrell Brown.

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

