



## Phi Sigma Epsilon Delta Alumni Association



Vol. 14 No. 2

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Winter 2004

### ***P.S.E. Alumni Assn. 75th Anniversary Reunion June 10-12, 2005 - Charleston, IL***

We've talked about it now for the last two years, made mention of it in the last three Newsletters and now it is rapidly closing in on us. This year marks the 75th anniversary of the existence of the Phi Sigma Epsilon Alumni Association, Delta Chapter, Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Illinois.

Although the active chapter no longer exists at Eastern Illinois University, the P.S.E. Alumni chapter still does and is going strong, as evidenced by our strong personal ties between Brothers all over the country, an expanding and increasingly accurate address database, a twice-a-year Newsletter with open and free PSE membership and a philanthropy of awarding financial assistance to EIU students who are children of previous Phi Sigs at Eastern.

Now, it is time to celebrate ALL of those accomplishments, and we will do so with everybody who wishes to attend. The celebratory weekend is scheduled for JUNE 10-12, 2005, here in Charleston, Illinois. As with past Reunions, the Best Western Worthington Inn on the western edge of the city will serve as "Grand Central Station" for most activities and housing. Again, we have been guaranteed special room rates (starting at \$52 for

one Dbl Bed, \$57 for 2 Dbl Beds, \$65 for a King Studio and \$103 for a Master Suite) and we are also guaranteed 56 total rooms to meet the expected demand from out-of-town visiting Brothers and their spouses. We have been informed that those rates and reservations can be made from here on out by calling (217) 348-8161 and stating that you are affiliated with the PSE Alumni Assn. Reunion weekend. However, don't put this off or wait until the last minute to secure your reservations, because they should go fast.

This is the first of two Newsletters that will be mailed before the Reunion. This one is really an overdue Newsletter from the Fall normal mailing and the next one, the normal Spring mailing, will contain all the registration materials for you to attend. Additional listings of local motels and their rates will also be listed in this Spring Newsletter. That will be mailed around the first of April. HOWEVER, start making your plans for this REUNION now, by checking your calendars and getting that weekend penciled in. Continue reading on to find out what all is going on during the Reunion.

## **For Those of You Who Desire to GOLF at the REUNION!!**

**(Read & Respond, Please)**

In at least the last two Reunions, we have arranged for a Golf Outing for those Brothers who wished to participate. This has traditionally taken place on the Saturday morning of the Reunion Weekend at the Meadowview Golf Course in nearby Mattoon, IL. With 18 holes of golf between an average 40+ golfers starting at 8 a.m. and lunch included, it was mid-afternoon before the group returned, and that was with a shotgun start. Tentative arrangements are already in place at Meadowview again, for Saturday golf at the Reunion. However, discussion has emerged about the possibility of a Friday golf outing instead of the Saturday outing, but it wouldn't be at Meadowview due to an earlier reservation by another group. The Charleston Country Club may allow us to play their course on Friday, but we couldn't have a shotgun start, we would be limited to a max of 40 golfers and of course, the last golfers finishing their rounds would be frittering in up to 2

hours after the initial groups finished. Additionally, many still-working attendee Brothers may have a difficult time fitting a Friday off into their schedule. But, it would allow more time for those who golf, to visit and take in all the ambiance of the weekend. THIS is where we need YOUR input. If you expect or desire to golf at this Reunion weekend, please e-mail me at: [psebrink@mchsi.com](mailto:psebrink@mchsi.com) with your desires. Indicate your choice of either a Friday or Saturday golf date (either day will probably be limited to a group of about 40 golfers). Carts will be provided as part of the package price. Also, to firm up all commitments, we need for you to respond as soon as possible. Even if you have not fully committed to the Reunion attendance yet, but would golf if attending, let us know your playing day preference. The PSE Board has a late February meeting and we would like to know where your interest lies at that time.

## Student Awards Recipients – Who, What, Where and When

It's been 13 years since the PSE Alumni Assn. first embarked on the endeavor of awarding financial assistance to qualified students, simply because their DAD was a member of the Phi Sigma Epsilon fraternity at EIU at some point in time. It seems to be an appropo time to find out **Who** all of these student recipients are, **What** they are doing/have done since leaving school, **Where** they are and **When** did they graduate.

In the last Newsletter, we highlighted the happenings that have occurred in the lives of nine of our previous student awards recipients since graduation from Eastern Illinois University. With this Newsletter, we include the next group of former EIU students who were financially assisted by the Phi Sigma Epsilon Alumni Assn.

They are:

**Jennifer Maurer** – Daughter of John and Nettie Closs – Jennifer graduated in 1993 after receiving 2 years of financial awards with a degree in Speech Communications and a Teaching certificate. She began teaching at Warrensburg High School that fall and continued in that position for 2 years before moving to Lombard, IL, where she married and went to work as an account executive for Matrix Exhibits. After a period of time in that area, she moved back to Decatur and began employment as the Sales Director at the Holiday Inn. After leaving that position, she is now the Executive Secretary for the Metro-Decatur Homebuilders and also does medical transcription work at home. She currently lives in Decatur, IL with her husband and two children.

**Timothy McChristian** – Son of Jerry and Pat McChristian – Timothy graduated in 1992 after receiving 1 year of financial assistance with a degree in Secondary Education. His first teaching position was at Mater Dei High School in Breese, IL, but after two years he accepted a position at Collinsville High School, where he is still employed. While attending EIU, he was also a JV Basketball coach in nearby Kansas, IL and took that experience with him to Collinsville, where he now serves also as the JV Basketball coach and until this past year, was also the JV football coach. Tim is married with one son and lives in nearby Maryville, IL.

**Bradley Neathery** – son of Lynn and Linda Neathery –

Bradley graduated in 1999 after receiving 4 years of financial awards with a degree in Zoology. In January 2000, Brad headed west to Portland, OR, where he lived and worked for 2 years with the famous Ruth's Chris Steak House, before moving on to Eugene, OR. He is not married and is currently living in the Eugene area and working for another restaurant facility.

**Timothy Miller** – Son of Charles (C. B.) and Linda Miller – Tim graduated in 1995 after receiving 1 year of financial assistance with a degree in Geology. After 3 years of initial employment as a Tetrographer with Construction Technology labs in Skokie, IL, he left for a position with Australian National Industries in Milwaukee, WI, as an Equipment Application Engineer, staying there for 2 years. Tim then worked for Metso in Milwaukee for 5 years as both an application engineer and product manager before leaving recently for a product manager opportunity with Excel Crusher Technologies based in Pekin, IL, with offices in Milwaukee. Tim works with mineral processing equipment at work, but enjoys living in Racine, WI, with his snowmobile and motorcycle interests occupying his personal time.

**Amy Root** – Daughter of Ed and Karen Root – Amy graduated in 1997 after receiving 2 years of financial awards with a B.A. in Sociology. She began her working career as a counselor at the Heritage Behavioral Center in Decatur and worked there for 3 years. After changing jobs, she has spent the last 4 years as a supervisor of juvenile probation for Macon County, IL, and has also paired up with several other women as trainers for empty-hand self defense tactics at jails and probation offices throughout Central Illinois. Amy resides in the Decatur area and is getting married in December 2005.

**Kelly Ann Root** – Daughter of Ed and Karen Root – Kelly received 1 year of financial assistance towards her goal of receiving a teaching degree, before circumstances required her to postpone her schooling and graduation until later. Upon leaving school, she managed a pet adoption agency in Decatur, IL for 3 years before assuming her current position of Dispatcher for the Decatur Police Department. She has also been the assistant volleyball coach at St. Theresa High School for 4 years, while devoting the rest of her time to raising 2 children, a daughter (5) and a son (3).

## New Addresses / Address Changes

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**Ronald F. Kirby** - 2184 Sussex Dr., Cape Girardeau, MO 63701  
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**Dane A. Cox** - 4109 Ambleside Dr., Madison, WI 53719  
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**Jack W. Burgner** - 1925 W. 22nd Ave., Eugene, OR 97405

**Jody H. Snow** - 142 Ridge Ave., Irving, IL 62051

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**Monte Popham** - 10746 N. County Rd. 1850 E., Charleston, IL 61920

**Keith Gotthardt** - 8314 47th St., Milan, IL 61264  
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**E. Gaydon Brandt** - 16 Deane Circle, Bella Vista, AR 72714  
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## Friday, June 10, 2005 – An Evening at Stix

As we have done in the past, a Friday night of socializing and comradery is planned for the evening of June 10, 2005, at the Stix Restaurant and Sports Bar located on Fourth Street in Charleston, IL. Plans are in place to begin at about 6 p.m. and continue until the last call, should that become necessary. This site and the adjacent parking lot encompasses the actual location of the third Phi Sigma Epsilon active chapter House, in which Phi Sigs lived during the school year of 1937 and 1938, prior to buying their first House at 1431 Ninth Street in September 1938. So, while attending and visiting at this Friday night get-together of nostalgia, you can think back to the days when you were not allowed to drink or have alcohol in the House and pretend that you are getting away with it this time.

At past Reunions, we have typically had 75-100 Brothers of all ages, many with their spouses, in attendance. The Stix facility, located at 1412 Fourth St. (just north of Lincoln Ave.), again has promised us a totally separate area from the rest of the bar patrons, complete with our own bar/bartender(s). The PSE Alumni Assn. will provide a variety of hors d'oeuvres for the

evening, but we can also order off the complete menu with our own waitresses. Booths are in abundance within our area, but we will also set up separate round tables with seating for about 8-10 people per table. The tables and seating would provide a perfect opportunity for sharing old nostalgic items that are brought to this Reunion, and as we did at the last Reunion, the PSE Alumni Assn. will have many pieces of memorabilia to reminisce over. Old pictures to share over a beer and a sandwich would be great, so if you have 'em, bring 'em.

This Friday night memory-fest has always been a big hit, so make your plans to be here for it, but don't come just for it. Our hospitality suite at the Best Western Worthington Inn (Reunion headquarters for the weekend) will open early on Friday morning and stay open as long as it is occupied, with the same schedule on Saturday. Sunday morning will begin our shutdown and cleanup (removal of all artifacts to owners or PSE Alumni Assn. storage). Check out the rest of the information about everything going on in the other articles within this Newsletter and the upcoming Newsletter in April.

### Do YOU Have Special Phi Sig Mementos or Souvenirs?

We all have special memories of our days in college and many of those are associated with special moments or activities. Along with those special memories are often physical mementos of those events that we participated in, whether they be PSE pledge training articles (varied - from pledge books to canes to signed panties), various Phi Sig sports and normal attire clothing (old T-shirts, sweatshirts, jackets, pants or sweatpants, hats etc.), various types of PSE jewelry and all the different types of favors that signified a special event. These would be like Spring Formal favors, Reunion favors or even anything associated with the Parties or Keggers, as well as anything that might have been generated within the walls of the different PSE Houses that we occupied over the years. Another area of great interest would be old pictures, whether they are black and white or color photographs. I'm sure there are literally thousands of old photos, going all the way back to our beginnings 75 years ago, that are stored away in boxes, trunks, files or desk drawers that highlight sports, PSE House life, special events, parades, Brotherhood and close friendships, as well as the normal goings-on in fraternity life.

We would like to display as many of these types of memorabilia as possible in our large hospitality room, much as we have done on a smaller scale in the past. THIS is a memorable moment for the PSE Alumni Assn., and we would like to share all of our past keepsakes amongst everyone in attendance. All materials displayed would be tagged as to ownership and returned to the rightful owners who allowed their use, before the end of the weekend. The PSE Alumni Assn. already has numerous items on hand that have been donated over the years as well as our own archives of items, all of which will also be on display. Obviously, this doesn't include a great deal from our older membership except for the musings and pictures within some of the older Warbler yearbooks that I personally collect, so if you have older Warblers and pictures, those too would be fun to peruse. Again, you can e-mail me at: [psebrink@mchsi.com](mailto:psebrink@mchsi.com) and let me know what you have or what you would consider loaning for this Reunion.

### Newsletters Available!

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

### E-mail Addresses

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### 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.

James E. Foley      Frank W. Tate      Ralph D. Wilson

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

President - Jim Luthe (618) 943-5341  
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Secretary - Tom Swanson (815) 465-6055

# PSE Fourteenth Annual Student Awards

August 22, 2004 arrived, as a day filled with anticipation for the general population of Eastern Illinois University, but more especially for 7 EIU students. Although unrelated, these 7 students still share a common bond, inasmuch as they are the daughter and sons of former EIU students who were members of the Phi Sigma Epsilon fraternity. They also shared the knowledge that they were going to leave the picnic/awards presentation with considerably more money than they arrived with and with the certainty that they will not be burdened with its payback at some time in the future.

The warmth of this perfect sunny August day stood in stark contrast to the overall cooler temperatures experienced for most of the summer, and was greatly welcomed. Gone was the maddeningly oppressive heat and humidity of last year, and the problem with bees, wind and rainfall during some of the previous get-togethers. With classes scheduled to begin the next day at EIU, it was a time to celebrate one last day of non-obligatory relaxation, before the grind of schooling began.

It used to be that this was the weekend that parents brought their students to school, but that has all changed. Students routinely arrive the first week of August now, to assume the 9-month lease on their apartment, delivering themselves in their own transportation. For the most part though, freshmen still arrive to move into the dorms on the prior Thursday to begin acclimation to new-found freedoms and choices. We are grateful that the parents of these students being recognized still take the time to make themselves available for the awards presentation, even though it often represents two long trips within a 4-day span of time.

The new group of 7 awardees, includes 3 new students and 4 returning students, but only one young lady in this group, quite a change from previous years.

With this group of 7 students we were able to present checks for \$425 per student, with the total amount presented to students now in excess of \$40,000 over the last 13 years.

Receiving their first year Student Awards were Robert Wolff, son of Carl and Shelley Wolff of Charleston, Illinois; Jonathon Closs, son of John and Nettie Closs of Decatur, Illinois, and the only incoming "true" freshman, Kevin Eichhorn, son of Ron and Lynn Eichhorn of Woodridge, Illinois. With the ascension of Kevin receiving his monetary award, he now completes the family triumvirate by becoming the third and last sibling in the Eichhorn family to receive Student Award financial assistance. Previously, older brother Steve and shortly thereafter, sister Michelle both were recipients of PSE awards. Receiving their second year Student Awards were Robert "Rob" Grigsby, son of Robert and Kathy Grigsby of Orland Park, Illinois; Ryan Lipe, son of Greg and Joyce Lipe of Hillsboro, Illinois and Melissa Beth Wesley, daughter of Pat Wesley and Karen Greenwald of Granite City, Illinois. The final recipient, Matthew Wills, son of Robin and Cindy Wills of Geneva, Illinois, received his third Student Award and should be back again next year too.

With the main objective of the afternoon completed, the session of photography was hurriedly completed so that some downtime visiting could be accomplished. Carl Wolff and Robert

Grigsby obviously were doing some "catching up" from their long absence in seeing each other, while others intermingled with PSE board members and other acquaintances made over the last few years. Since there was lots of catered foods left over, we distributed it as far as its acceptance was appreciated – "die-for brownies" were another matter – no problem getting rid of them. One final tease herein directed to Rob's father, Robert Grigsby – the meal always starts at NOON. See you next year?



Left to right: Robert Wolff; Carl Wolff, Jonathon Closs, John Closs, Ron Eichhorn, Kevin Eichhorn, Robert Grigsby, "Rob" Grigsby, Pat Wesley, Melissa Beth Wesley, Greg Lipe, Ryan Lipe, Robin Wills, Matthew Wills.

*Reunion Information  
June 10-12, 2005*

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

