



# Phi Sigma Epsilon Delta Alumni Association



Happy Thanksgiving & Merry Christmas

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## *The Phi Sigma Epsilon Alumni Assn. 85<sup>th</sup> Reunion*

Just over five months ago, the gathered membership of the Phi Sigma Epsilon Alumni Assn.-Delta Chapter-Eastern Illinois University, met in Charleston, IL to celebrate our 85<sup>th</sup> year of existence as an alumni organization. We headquartered our activities again at a hotel on the west side of Charleston, that we (PSE Board of Directors) swore we would never utilize again for our gatherings. It is now called the U-Hotel, or sometimes called Unique Suites Hotel, but the stigma of being called the Worthington Inn is gone after the debacle of five years ago, during our celebration of our 80th year as an alumni organization. Many things went wrong for us at that hotel that weekend, but I'm sure the coup de grace that we most remember, was the backup of the sewer lines into the hallway and bathrooms, adjacent to the banquet that we were in the midst of, WHILE we were trying to enjoy it. Admittedly, it happened after a very heavy, late-afternoon rain, but still, that s\_\_\_ (sorry, couldn't resist the play on words) shouldn't have ever happened.

With this introduction though, let me tell you about everything that went right for this year's weekend gathering, interspersed with many pictures from the weekend activities. One of the biggest pluses was that we, the PSE Alumni Assn. Board of Directors (BOD), decided to "give back" to the assembled Brothers and spouses, the cost of that weekend, in recognition of everything that they gave to the fraternity while in school. That included the cost of the Banquet meal/program for everyone in attendance and the cost of the introductory Spouse's Vineyards Tour/Tasting luxury bus excursion,

but not the PSE Golf outing, hotel rooms and travel expenses to get to Charleston. In all, we had 137 Brothers/spouses in attendance at the Banquet, with 36 Brothers playing golf and 23 ladies participating in the Cameo Vineyards program in nearby Greenup, IL.

The hotel complex itself, was purchased by a local Charleston businessman about 2-3 years after our 2010 fiasco, so Sharon and I watched as the facility underwent a complete overhaul. That included a completely new excavated sewer piping replacement, completely new kitchen and equipment, redecorating all rooms with new pillow-top beds, upgraded AC/Heat, carpeting and paint, interior decorations, upgraded doors/locks, new building roofs etc. The main hotel building itself had also undergone a complete and updated appearance and facility upgrade, including a new restaurant, Chicago-style Bar and booths/tables for 75 people, plus an adjacent patio area outside the Bar, with umbrella tables & chairs, outdoor patio furniture and firepit for outdoor dining or visiting. In addition, the banquet rooms and all bathrooms, as well as the seating and registration area at the entrance to the hotel have been modernly upgraded for comfort, decorative enhancement and function. After bringing several PSE Board members to the hotel in the early stages of the Reunion planning, it was decided that it would be a facility that we could again utilize for our planned activities. So, buckle up and hang on for this expose' of the PSE Reunion weekend, recreated in chronological order.

## *Roc's Four O'Clock Club*

After arriving in Charleston and getting yourselves checked into the U-Hotel in the early afternoon (at the promised discount rate for PSE members), the onset of visiting and intermingling began, both within the complimentary hospitality room and outside the room, but nearby. Old friendships blossomed again with bearhug

greetings, while new ones started out with an introductory name and handshake. It didn't take any time at all for everyone gathered to be conversing or laughing with an old friend or a new acquaintance. The newly redecorated hospitality room was perfect for our needs, but admittedly was a little short on seating. No

problem though! After talking to management, they accommodated us with up to an additional twelve chairs. The mini-kitchen and counter in the room was perfect for setting out “munchies” that different Brothers had brought or bought, as well as mixed-drink ingredients and soft drinks. The refrigerator



*Upstairs at Roc's - L to R - Joe Snyder, Dennis Vidoni & Gene Girard*

was full of 12-packs of different donated beers, etc. and the bedroom was decorated with Phi Sig memorabilia from years gone by. The mini-composites generally drew the most comments and laughter, as everyone equated their appearance from bygone days to the present, for both friends and themselves. All of this though, was just the prelude for the evening to come, that being the all-evening soiree at the Roc's Four O'Clock Club, which started promptly at 6 PM in the upstairs area above the Roc's Bar, which we had to ourselves.

Although we (PSE BOD) had lightly concerned ourselves with individuals having problems ascending and descending the two flights of stairs, those concerns were shortly overcome. Otto Hartman, we were glad to see you up and down the stairs too. Because we had advertised that we would provide no appetizers, etc. in the upstairs of Roc's, most everyone had made arrangements to go out and eat in town or have dinner in the adjacent restaurant part of the bar at Roc's. The waitresses were overwhelmed with the amount of business that all of a sudden poured into their establishment, prior to heading upstairs. After eating, the entertainment (self-provided) began in the upstairs of Roc's.

The venue that we were provided upstairs included a fully stocked bar with two bartenders on duty-there were no attendants taking drink orders to the best of my recollections. As I indicated in the last Newsletter in discussing the Roc's arrangements, we were charged no fee for the use of the upstairs, as long as we met a \$500 minimum bar tab and

minimal, but adequate tipping for the bartenders. When I called the Roc's owner the following week, I could almost hear him smiling when he told me that we had easily met his minimal requirements for both the bar and bartenders. At one point in the evening, I seem to recall that a third bartender had to be called in, at least for a bit of time. I'd like to think that we aren't a bunch of boozehounds, but rather a large group of Brothers and spouses who were relishing the times of being reacquainted again with friends from years or even decades ago. There were Brothers there that weren't going to be at the Banquet on Saturday evening for one reason or another-those that come to mind were Tom Evans, Dennis Vidoni, Joe Snyder, Ron Gardner and Dennis Phegley. The only complaint that I received all evening was that it was pretty warm in some areas of the large room area. A little while after the event started, I noticed that trays of multiple appetizers all of a sudden appeared, much to my amazement, since we hadn't ordered any. I later found out that Boone Chaney had surreptitiously ordered those and taken care of the bill himself-they took a lot of hits, but were well patronized and at the end there were still a few survivors.

People were standing around in groups laughing, drinking and conversing or doing the same within the booth seating and other table/chair seating located randomly within the confines. Brothers would spend time within one group and then saunter off to another group of guys and gals, to scoop up as much information as they could about old friends. Constant chatter



*Upstairs at Roc's-Friday night*

emanated within groups from one guy or another, as to what you were drinking, as they were making a beer or mixed drink run. And the stories and memories intermingled with the laughter that was coming out of those variable groups was what makes all the effort of having a Reunion worthwhile. Many people expressed the opinion to PSE Board members that we

shouldn't wait another 5 years to have another one, given our increasing age and the potential onset of health issues. With that sentiment being expressed, **we decided at the Board meeting in late September, to officially plan the next PSE Reunion three (3) years from now-that is 2018.** Having another Reunion in a year cheapens the desired effect, because they become commonplace; doing it every other year becomes burdensome, because it takes 1 ½ - 2 years to get all the ducks in place; having one in three years meets the Goldilocks test, that being that 1-2 years is too short a time, while 5 years is too

long a time and 3 years is just right. In discussions with other Brothers and guests in attendance, we estimate that there were close to or slightly more than 100 people there-no wonder it was getting slightly warm and stuffy. Officially, we closed the door on the evening activities upstairs at about 12:40 AM, with the last three of us deciding to go back to the hotel or, as others had done, hit Chink's (now Mike & Stan's) or the Uptowner Bar. Of course, many had already retired for the evening, knowing that there was an early tee time awaiting them, following the U-Hotel provided free breakfast for all guests registered there.

## *Phi Sig Golf Outing A Hit*

Thirty-six golfers braved the early-Saturday morning requirement of arriving at the Meadowview Golf Course in nearby Mattoon, IL, for a 9 AM "Modified Shotgun" tee time start. Charlie Henry, our resident alumni golf pro from Caseville, MI, once again came through for the PSE Alumni Assn. by expertly organizing this event and getting all the pieces to fit. Thank you Charlie! The format was set up in 4-person scrambles, where you could sign up to enter pledge class foursomes, enter with another Phi Sig buddy or enter as a single. Charlie would then pair up groups of four, based on their grouping requests and his knowledge of their skill sets, so as to most equally distribute the talents of the Brothers into foursomes. The cost for this early-morning adventure was \$35 per person, which included golf and ½ cart fee, door prizes, on-course prizes and team prizes, including "Best Pledge Class Finish". To facilitate an earlier arrival back at the U-Hotel after 18 holes of golf, the scoreboard posting and the inevitable "cheap talk" would be done back at the hotel hospitality suite, with choice of beverages to either celebrate or drown your sorrows. All the prizes were presented at the evening Banquet festivities.

Since I am not a golfer and didn't participate in the golf outing, I can only speculate as to what the day was like for the nine foursomes of golfers. One thing I do know from having participated (badly, I might add) in a few Phi Sig outings over the years, is that there is no lack of fun, jesting and camaraderie that takes place during the entire outing. And not only between members of each foursome, but amongst all of the collective foursomes. The banter that is exchanged between the groups probably sounds pretty threatening or offensive to non-associated players, but it is all in fun and part of what we hold dear; that is the classic gesture of pimping the Brothers to get a rise out of them or just poke fun at them. However, irregardless of how good or bad you played, the important thing to remember is that "a bad (or good) day of golf, especially with the Brothers, is still better than a good day at work".

night Banquet included the following, and my apologies to you if I messed any of these up. First place went to the team of Ron Eichhorn, Bob Brendel, Jerry Brendel and John Ziebarth, who finished the day with an 18-hole score of 63. For their efforts, they each received a 12-pack sleeve of golf balls. In second place, was the team of Charlie Henry, Mike Snow, Jim Luthe and Gary Schaefer, and with their 18-hole total being 64, they were just short of tying the first place team. They also each received a 12-pack sleeve of balls for their efforts. There was also an award presented to one team as a result of a "Blind Draw", which was a random choosing of a team out of a hat. That team was comprised of the following Brothers: Tom Brown, Bill Brown, Darrell Brown and his other Brother Darrell (oh! Sorry, I meant Dick Swing). Anyway, for their efforts at being lucky enough to win the "Blind Draw", they also received sleeves of golf balls, and finished with a respectable score of 71. The final presentation was made to the team that finished in last place, called the DFL award, with "D" denoting "Dead", "L" denoting "Last" and "F" left to your imagination. (However, never forget, we are all still equal). The team of Loren Hunsaker, Jerry Nyckel, Gene Girard and Dick Carpenter finished with a score of 72 and were awarded a particularly ugly trophy that was donated by Steve Houghton-don't remember where he found it, but it was emblazoned with a newly engraved nameplate. I personally think that that 72 is still a pretty good score, since it approximated some of my 9-hole feats in the past. The rest of the team scores were in the 68-70 range, so there were really good groupings of effort from the nine team foursomes.

Bob Kovack, who lives in Mattoon, threw his hat into the ring for the 2018 PSE Reunion, when he volunteered to take over the organizational duties for the golf outing, thereby giving Charlie Henry a long-distance and well deserved break. Thank you Charlie, for all your past efforts.

The prizes that were awarded by Charlie Henry at the Saturday

## *Inaugural Vineyard/ Tasting Tour for PSE Spouses*

While many of the Phi Sig Brothers were enjoying a beautiful Saturday morning at the Meadowview Golf Course, their wives and the other spouses in Reunion attendance had the option of attending the inaugural Phi Sig sponsored Winery Tour & Tasting, or seeking their own activities. The destination was the Cameo Vineyards in Greenup, IL, about 18 miles south of Charleston, an established winery that has been in business since 2002 officially, but constantly improving their vineyard skills since 1991, when the original vines were planted.

The idea of having a Ladies program is something that has been bounced around for quite awhile in the past, in the midst of planning other Reunions. It never quite got to home base, because it was always thought that the ladies preferred to go shopping (nearby Tanger Outlets in Tuscola, IL), hit the hotel pool or just visit amongst themselves. With the advent of our plans to absorb this year's Reunion costs within the PSE Alumni Assn., we began delving into the idea that we should finally do something for the spouses, who also attend the Reunions. Numerous ideas were floated, but the one that finally got traction, was the one that we finally ended up with, that being the Vineyard Tour and Tasting. Dave Carrell volunteered to take the reins of the venture to get a program for the Phi Sig ladies assembled. He looked into several different local wineries that would meet our list of requirements, and ultimately the Cameo Vineyards in Greenup, IL looked to be the best fit for our needs. Thank you Dave and thank you also Mary Ann Carrell.

Because we did not want to jeopardize the health concerns of our spouses following the subsequent-to-the-tour wine tasting by impeding their driving skills on the way back to Charleston, it had been our intent all along to provide transportation in some form. After we ruled out Booze Buses, private vehicles and hitchhiking (just kidding), we settled into a rental, luxury 30-passenger bus from a company in Effingham, IL. It turned out to be an even better option than we originally projected. Because its interior seating configuration lent itself to the coziness of the ladies visiting with each other while facing each other, it allowed a more intimate means of communication, instead of the more traditional OTR travel buses. That was the one comment that I heard more than any other, from some of the spouses that I conferred with after returning. The bus was on-time, comfortable and quiet and able to deliver it's passengers close to where the activities were taking place. It actually returned to Charleston a little earlier than 3 PM, because the Reunion- advertised shopping in downtown Greenup didn't pan out. The sidewalks folded up early because it was Saturday afternoon and that's what they do in small-town Greenup, unbeknownst to us planners. The bus did return heavier than when it left from Charleston though, with many single or multiple bottles purchased, including at least one case amount and of course, the souvenir tasting glasses that each lady received from the winery. We hope that all the spouses that took part in this inaugural program, which the PSE Alumni Assn. completely paid for, had a good time.



## *The Saturday Evening Reunion Banquet*

With the morning/early afternoon activities concluded for both the group of Phi Sig golfers and the group of Phi Sig spouses attending the Vineyard tour, it was time to start thinking about the highlight of the evening, the Reunion Banquet and the attendant program following that meal. Still, there was more time in the early to later afternoon for mixing within and outside of the hospitality room. Steady streams of primarily Brothers met and conversed about past events and upcoming activities in their lives—baseball and the Cubs vs. Cardinals supporters are always lively subjects when we get together. At that time in mid-June, who could have predicted the paths of play for those two teams by the end of the season. For many of us, a contentious discussion of health concerns and the state of the health care system were important topics of conversation, with some interjecting the political card into the talk and further embroiling the visceral passions. Oh well, at least we're together communicating and maybe in some cases arguing. You know, once these types of discussion ensue, the time just flies by. And so it was in this case too.

Phi Sigs and their spouses (applicable) were soon entering the Banquet area when the 5:30 PM Cash Bar signaled the beginning of a festive evening of sharing drinks, visiting and partaking in the evening meal, to be followed by the program of memories. All of that would then be culminated by a collage of pictures of events from the collective repository of Phi Sig history, old photographs. Before I go any further though, I would like to heartily thank Jeff Estes, for all the work and time he committed himself to, so that we could enjoy these snippets of our past days in school as Phi Sigs. I know that he spent most of Saturday afternoon doing what he does best—that is, using all of his computer skills to meld together all the pictures into a continuous loop of classic memories. Thank you Jeff!

The call went out shortly after 6 PM to our gathered guests that the Dinner was about to begin and that they should seek out their seating. The choice of seating was voluntary and most had made their table seating arrangements shortly after arriving for the Cash Bar. PSE Board President Jim Luthe made a few welcoming remarks, offered Grace and enumerated the order for tables to proceed to the assembled trays of food. I could spell out the Buffet choices of food, but I will just reiterate what

I heard from everybody who commented on the food quality and selection. I received no negative comments on the food and



*Entrance to the U-Hotel Foyer*

many positive comments for the quality—positives are often offered less than negatives, so I think that bodes well for the restaurant and kitchen staff. I especially remember how tender the roast beef was, when often it is tough and somewhat rubbery. There was a good selection of all types of food, and because it was a Buffet, there was an ample opportunity to satiate yourself. The restaurant staff service, I thought, was impeccable, in providing for drink needs and prompt servicing of

completed meal dishes. Ample time was allowed for those making up the later cadres of guests getting their food, but by about 7:15 PM, it was time to get started with the evening featured program.

Initially, President Jim Luthe introduced the members of the PSE Alumni Assn. Board of Directors, followed by other introductions of special guests in attendance. That was followed by a series of Group Recognitions, highlighting the accomplishments of many Brothers in any of a number of categories. Here is how they broke down:

**Oldest Phi Sig in Attendance** - John Greathouse - lives in Mattoon - at 89, looked younger than many.

**Youngest Phi Sig in Attendance** - Tie between Kevin Garretson and Jerry Malkowski.

**Traveled the farthest** - California - Tie between Kevin Bachman and Jerry Malkowski.

**Traveled the shortest** - Charleston - Tie between ten different residents.

**Most in a Pledge Class** - There were 3 or 4 pledge classes with at least 4 members present.

**House Presidents** - Numerous present including Bud Sanders, Randy Rothrock, Gene Girard, Dwayne Nyckel, Jeff Moore, Steve Houghton, Tom Brown. Apologies if we missed anyone.

**Pledge Masters** - Steve Houghton, Jerry Nyckel, "Cat" Behl. Apologies if we missed anyone.

With the completion of the Group Recognitions, it was time to present Charlie Henry, our golf coordinator. The synopsis for those awards was written up earlier in this narrative, under the story entitled “Phi Sig Golf Outing A Hit”. All the results are listed in that writeup.

When it was decided to once again do a cavalcade of the historical events within the different decades of our existence at EIU, we began looking for Brothers who could do a 5-7 minute presentation for each decade. That had been done before, but it was many Reunions ago. Now, the challenge was to match the decades with a Brother who indicated his intention of attending the Reunion. Sometimes they would notify us later than sooner, because their own calendar of date obligations did not afford immediate notification. Fortunately, we knew earlier on, the availability of certain Brothers to fulfill their respective decade after having talked about them in previous PSE Board meetings. With the cutoff date for registration already past, we still had no speaker for the last decade, the ‘80’s.

Because I had the most historical familiarity with the decades of the ‘30’s and ‘40’s, and because there was nobody present from that time period, I volunteered to present for those two decades. It was primarily a synopsis of our multiple housing (four different Houses) moves within that two-decade time period, our on-campus activities, both social and athletic, and the effects of WWII on the fraternity. For the ‘50’s decade, Claude “Bud” Sanders seemed to me to be the logical choice. He lives in Charleston, having retired from a counseling career at



*Banquet Program – ‘50’s Speaker Claude “Bud” Sanders*

EIU, thereby affording him the opportunity to attend the Banquet. He was also the PSE House President during the transition time when we were building the 1509 Second St. House that most of us are familiar with. He even participated in the original groundbreaking ceremonies with the EIU President and other dignitaries. During his presentation, he offered a look

at life in the early ‘50’s, when they were still living at the House at 1431 Ninth St., but getting ready to move to Second St. Bud noted that a campaign was undertaken to raise money for the down payment on the loan that the PSE Alumni Assn. would have to take out for the House financing. It was through the persistence of the PSE officers and the Alumni Assn. that older alumni stepped forward to pay off their monetary promissory notes that they signed upon graduation. Being successful in this endeavor, the Phi Sigs were able to finance their new House. A little side note: Due to Bud’s story about the promissory notes, I



*Banquet Table – Clockwise from bottom left – Jeff Moore, Scott Brown, Roger McCoy, Joan McCoy, Diana Whitley, Liz Hunsaker, Loren Hunsaker & Wally Whitley*

was approached later that evening by three Brothers who wanted to know if they had ever paid their promissory notes, signed when they went active. I told them I would check, since I still have all of those from the early ‘60’s on. Of the three inquiries, one was not paid yet. Upon visual email of that note, this Brother fulfilled his obligation and sent PSE a check for \$100. Brotherhood is alive and well folks! Bud concluded his remarks by stating that he never lived in the new PSE House, because he had gotten a new roommate-his wife of 60 years, JoAnn, who was also in attendance. For the ‘60’s time period, we sought out Dick “Wailer” Christman, who lives in retirement in Danville, with family nearby. Dick was a chemistry major in school and retired from a 42-year teaching career (primarily chemistry) at Danville Area Community College (DACC). A great deal of his presentation dealt with the turbulent times that we experienced in the ‘60’s-everything from the onset of marijuana use, civil disobedience, Viet Nam war protests, draft evasion and dodging, to hard rock bands and music associated with drug use. For the most part PSE had very little drug activity within its ranks, but Wailer offered one story of an incident that occurred at a Phi Sig off-campus residence called the Blue Beacon. Apparently there was a “pot” house next door and at some

point the residents became somewhat belligerent because of the friction of their doing “pot” while the Phi Sigs didn’t do it and didn’t want the neighbors doing it. It never came to blows, but the “pot” issue was challenged with some broken beer bottles and a lot of random hyperbole, probably from both sides. Wailer also noted that after his presentation was over, he was relayed a story by someone at the Banquet. The story that came out was that an EIU administrator had called on the fraternity system and specifically PSE to intercede in the protest marches going on, to help cool down the anti-war sentiment, since the fraternity system was pretty conservative at the time. True or not, who knows-but believable! Such was the decade of the ‘60’s. For the coverage of the ‘70’s, we couldn’t think of anyone more suited to that time period and it’s highlights than Bill “Robo” Robinson. He is retired from Pepsi as an administrator, is intimately involved in many facets of giving back to EIU (currently EIU Foundation Board President) and is a past EIU Distinguished Alumni recipient. He was also on two intramural football team championships during the dynasty in the ‘70’s. I thought Robo did an excellent job of recreating the atmosphere that was part of his era, but still related it to all of us Phi Sigs, so that we thought that he was talking about our own time. Most everybody present was laughing up a storm when thinking back on the stories that he was telling-I only wished that I could have had the foresight to have videoed it on my camera. I don’t think anybody could have given a better description of what was happening in the ‘70’s. I was hoping that we might have had some ‘80’s Brothers back for the Reunion-I did make contacts with several guys to ascertain their commitment to attend, but had no takers, for one reason or another. Jim Fechner, who is currently on the PSE Board of Directors, would have been available and attended, but for a family wedding that was scheduled long before the Banquet program was formulated. I told the PSE Board that I would do that presentation-I felt like I had a good grasp of the chronological time clock for the ‘80’s. It was basically a re-statement of the facts, as they were known at the time. Shortly after the new gable roof went up on the House in 1979, additional PSE House improvements were completed, before the onslaught of the PSE-PSK merger talks began. Then the merger took place and of course, the “incident” that led to the loss of our charter at Eastern, the “trashing” of the House, the sale of the House in 1986 and the heavy equipment destruction of the House in March 1987. I tried to present all that information as factual information, hoping to introduce no bias into the facts-I hope it came off as such.

Trying to stay fairly close to the printed schedule in the special program, the word went out for those willing to serve on the 90<sup>th</sup> Reunion (now to be amended to the 88<sup>th</sup>). I can’t honestly

tell you the results of that, except for the volunteerism of Bob Kovack to head up the golf outing, as noted earlier. Not knowing any other results, there was a quick explanation of the upcoming video loop that was assembled by Jeff Estes from many pictures that he and I provided. Before being dismissed for that however, it was time for the Brothers to form a huge Circle of Brotherhood and sing “The Song of Phi Sigma Epsilon”. You know that one: “Sing to our Fraternity...We’ll sing to P.S.E.”

Then, adjournment for the rest of the evening and weekend on your own!!



*The Mostly ‘70’s Group – Seated L to R – John Tate, Terry Rienbolt, Pete Kasperski, Gary Kling & Bill Robinson*

*Standing Second Row L to R – Mike Garretson, Doug Cycotte, Jerry Rankin, Jim Rankin, Joe Fournier, Tim Huber, Jeff Estes, Kevin Bachman, Tony Dunn & Tim Kearns*

*Standing Back Row (tall guys) – Ed Root, Steve Houghton, Jeff Moore, Dave Rienbolt & Charles “Cat” Behl*



## *PSE Registration Site is FIXED!!*

Earlier in the year, I began hearing from a few different Phi Sig Brothers by email and verbally, that their attempts to complete the registration signup on the PSE website were being compromised. This problem became frustrating to those who were legitimately trying to access the entire website by registering, but couldn't, because their attempts were being blocked. Due to my known prowess in the field of technology, I basically had them contact our Phi Sig site administrator, Tom Swanson, to see if he could guide them through the pitfalls and get them registered. I soon heard back from him that there was indeed something amiss in the software for the registration site information. Tom wrote out a couple of descriptive emails, relaying information about his attempts to get into the registration software, even setting up a mock scenario. Upon my receipt of the emails and not comprehending very well what they were saying, I contacted our EIU computer guru, whom we

utilize to put this Newsletter online and fix little problems that periodically arise. I forwarded the emails from Tom directly to Nate (our guru) and within a day he had the problem isolated and corrected and let me know of the correction. I then contacted Tom to apprise him of the repairs, but also contacted the Phi Sig Brothers who had originally reached out to me for help. I informed them of the "fix" and asked them to again try to register. This they did. When Tom gets another Brother registered online, he forwards me a verification of that fact and so I did get verifications for those who originally contacted me. Therefore, I can now report that the PSE website should be fully operable for your use, although I am still working on a few in-house issues related to my own upkeep of information. Should problems arise, contact me, so we can keep the website a viable entity of use for the Phi Sig Brotherhood.

## *PSE Twenty-Fifth Annual Student Awards*

Well, we made it! One quarter-century of awarding financial Student Awards is officially "in the books". Who would have thought 25 years ago that we would still be undertaking this philanthropic endeavor to help out EIU students that we still have a fraternal connection to. Having said that however, it looks like that may be coming to an end sooner than later. But, until it does, we will carry on.

On Sunday, August 23, 2015, the PSE Alumni Assn. convened this year's Student Awards Luncheon and Awards Presentation at my home in Charleston, IL. With the traditional meal of ½ lb. "Fluffy Burgers" (awesome flavor-from local meat market), potato salad, baked beans, assorted drinks and Texas Sheet cake dessert bars being the fare of the day, the five of us sat down for the luncheon. Yes, I did say five! Jim and Jan Fechner and their Award honoree daughter, Michelle, along with my wife Sharon, and myself, comprised the group who met for this presentation. When it looked like the PSE Alumni Assn. was going to be under-represented, I contacted President Jim Luthe and Board members Boone Chaney and Randy Waldron to see if they would be attending. Randy had another commitment that would preclude him from attending, Jim had forgotten the date, but was under the weather anyway and Boone had jumped on an invitation from a relative to take a two-week trip to Florida and was already there. With the meal over, we casually conversed for a little bit, before making the Award presentation to Michelle.

For Michelle, this was her third Award presentation and again we were able to present her a check for \$500 for use in her Junior school year. This is also her third Award at that level and



*L to R – Jan Fechner, Michelle Fechner & Jim Fechner*

as I alluded to in our casual remarks at the lunch table, if she should receive that Award amount next year, she would be the only student to have ever received the maximum stipend for the entire four years at EIU. There have been other students who have received Awards for four years, but at times the maximum \$500 increment could not be presented because of the increased number of students and the fixed amount of grant money. So, the pressure is on the parents next Spring



(Newsletter) to make sure that they submit the application for her last year.

After finishing up the luncheon and taking the obligatory photos to document the occasion, the weather began to turn a little bit on us, threatening to rain. Because we had generally completed all the necessary requirements of the day and had sufficiently conversed, we wrapped up the gathering for this year.

To commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, here is the listing of all the students who have received at least one yearly PSE Student Award, their Phi Sig Dad and the number of years each student received the Award.

Mari Beth Long-daughter of Roger Long - 4 years  
Nicole Collins - daughter of Gary Collins - 3 years  
Paige Hood - daughter of Dick Hood - 3 years  
Karin Garbe - daughter of Gale Garbe - 3 years  
Tracy Swanson - daughter of Tom Swanson - 3 years  
Jennifer Maurer - daughter of John Closs - 2 years  
Brett Collins - son of Gary Collins - 1 year  
Timothy McChristian - son of Jerry McChristian - 1 year  
Christopher Perry - son of Richard Perry - 3 years  
Timothy Miller - son of Charles (C.B.) Miller - 1 year  
Bradley Neathery - son of Lynn Neathery - 4 years  
Ryan Hilligoss - son of Bob Hilligoss - 3 years  
Todd Laux - son of Austin Opp - 1 year  
Steve Eichhorn - son of Ron Eichhorn - 4 years  
Brooke Hood - daughter of Dick Hood - 4 years  
Amy Root - daughter of Ed Root - 2 years  
Jonathan Porter - son of Jim Porter - 2 years  
Kari Palishen - daughter of Harold Palishen - 4 years  
Jay Woodland - son of Steve Woodland - 4 years  
Sara Granger - daughter of Bill Granger - 4 years  
Joanna Elke - daughter of Dick Elke - 4 years  
Kelly Ann Root - daughter of Ed Root - 1 year  
Tom Medder - son of Mel Medder - 3 years  
Michelle Eichhorn - daughter of Ron Eichhorn - 3 years  
Michael Lux - son of Steve Lux - 4 years  
Andrew Brendel - son of Bob Brendel - 2 years  
Ashlee Brown - daughter of Darrell Brown - 4 years  
Sara Kasperski - daughter of Pete Kasperski - 2 years  
Chris Swing - son of Dick Swing - 2 years  
Matthew Wills - son of Robin Wills - 4 years  
Rob Grigsby - son of Robert Grigsby - 4 years  
Ryan Lipe - son of Greg Lipe - 4 years  
Melissa Beth Wesley - daughter of Pat Wesley - 2 years  
Robert Wolff - son of Carl Wolff - 1 year

Jonathon Closs - son of John Closs - 1 year  
Kevin Eichhorn - son of Ron Eichhorn - 2 years  
Tyler Brucker - son of Greg Brucker - 1 year  
Ross Laux - son of Austin Opp - 3 years  
David Lux - son of Steve Lux - 2 years  
Danielle Hickey - daughter of Dan Hickey - 2 years  
Jennifer Moore - daughter of Jeff Moore - 1 year  
Landon Arney - son of Larry Arney - 4 years  
Evan Boone - son of William "Rusty" Boone - 3 years  
Michelle Fechner - daughter of Jim Fechner - 3 years



*L to R – Gary Brinkmeyer, Michelle Fechner & Jim Fechner*

## 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.

Larry G. Freeman  
Clarence G. Onyett

William R. McMullen  
William D. Trulock

## *P.S.E. Tidbits*

**Camp-In 43** is also now officially relegated to our history books. This year, it took on epic proportions, in terms of the number of people who were present for the weekend. In fact, I had to rent another 2 BR unit to meet the demand, and even then, we used every bedroom that was available. Apparently, an exact alignment of the stars brought about this scenario. We knew we had a new couple joining us for the weekend when Dick and Barb Swing decided after having so much fun at the Reunion, they would join us in the fun at the Camp-In. At the last minute Larry Carli had to cancel out of the weekend get-together, but Tom and LaDonna Swanson cancelled their previous cancellation to also join us for the weekend. That starry

alignment for them came about, because their normal corn crop harvest had been completed early with the good Fall weather we were experiencing this year. We are expecting a full house again next year and may be bringing Dwayne Nyckel on board too.

**Although it was mentioned earlier** in the story of the Reunion, I want to reiterate that **the next PSE Reunion is tentatively set for 2018**. It'll probably be in June again (early rather than late) and I'm sure that we will again use the U-Hotel again. Hopefully, it will still be there and under the same management and ownership. I can't say enough good about how we were treated by all facets of the hotel staff.

## *More Reunion Photos*



*Upstairs at Roc's – Friday night*



*Upstairs at Roc's – Friday night*



*Fall '66 PB's together again at Roc's – L to R – Roger Long, Al Ortegren, Gary Brinkmeyer & Randy Rothrock.*



*Up at Roc's-Friday night L to R – Steve Morrison & Charlie Titus*





*Upstairs at Roc's – Clockwise from bottom left – Mike Goodman, Otto Hartman, Bill Granger, Randy Rothrock, Al Ortegren, Otto Daech, Roger Long & Gary Brinkmeyer*



*L to R – Don Parsons & Gary Brinkmeyer at Hospitality Room*



*L to R – Jim Rankin, Gene Girard & Jerry Rankin at Hospitality Room*



*Dale Simon & Mike Ellis at Hospitality Room*



*Banquet Program – Golf Organizer Charlie Henry (back shown) congratulates winning team – L to R – Ron Eichhorn, Bob Brendel, Jerry Brendel & John Ziebarth*



*Banquet Table – Clockwise from bottom left – Jan Ernst, Karen Ernst, Charles Ernst, Cindy Schnorf, Dave Schnorf, Steve Morrison, Barb Morrison & Garry Ernst*





*L to R – Jerry Rankin, Janie Schaefer & Gary Schaefer at Hospitality Room*



*Banquet table – Clockwise from far left – Judie Cycotte, Doug Cycotte, Marilyn Weir, Bill Weir, Lynette Rienbolt, Dave Rienbolt, Carl Benander & Marilyn Benander*



*Yukking it up in the Hospitality Room – L to R – Boone Chaney & Mike Snow*



*Banquet Table – Clockwise from bottom left – Barb Swing, Dick Swing, Dick Kellenberger, China Kellenberger, Tom Brown, Janet Green, Craig Green & Darrell Brown*



*Joe Arro lecturing-Scott Brown (left) and Jerry Malkowski (right) not listening*