



Phi Sigma Epsilon Delta Alumni Association

Spring 1991

Phi Sigma Epsilon 1930 - 1985

As you may or may not know by now, Phi Sigma Epsilon, as both a national fraternity and Delta chapter at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, is history.

To those of you who fondly remember the good times we fraternity brothers shared and the permanent friendships that we formed, it is a bitter pill to swallow, made all the more bitter by the circumstances that brought our demise about.

In the mid-80's, our PSE National President James Whitfield and a few others began visiting PSE chapters across the country to gauge the support for a potential merger with another larger national fraternity, Phi Sigma Kappa. The pretext for the initial discussions of this merger was that it would be beneficial for both fraternities to merge as a larger, more stable fraternity to be known as Phi Sigma Kappa.

In theory the way it would work is this: PSE chapters were told by Whitfield that the national PSE office in Indianapolis was debt-ridden (to the tune of \$60,000) and, basically fairly inept in providing supplies that chapters ordered, as well as in handling the necessary and proper administration of the national fraternity. So what else is new – Delta chapter had known that all along and we survived nicely, thank you. Anyway, the carrot that dangled from Whitfield's stick was that by merging with PSK, they would absorb the financial debt and then provide an infusion of support to PSE chapters to help them out and make them stronger PSK chapters.

At the National Conclave in Indianapolis in August 1985, the historic meeting to decide the direction of PSE was convened. Most PSE chap-

ters throughout the country were represented at the conclave. Both active chapters and alumni associations were allowed to cast separate, single votes for or against the merger. The vote ended in a dead tie with the National PSE President James Whitfield casting the tie-breaking vote to scrap 55 years of PSE tradition and to merge PSE with PSK, gaining PSK about 35 new chapters. Jim Whitfield was soon thereafter named to the PSK Grand Council as a Director.

Shortly after that, litigation by PSK was begun to bring the PSE alumni associations under the umbrella of PSK but it failed by legal directive. The Delta chapter of PSE at EIU became a PSK chapter upon the merger vote and existed for a short time.

In October 1986, E.I.U. essentially kicked PSK (formerly PSE) off campus by revoking their charter, for an incident that took place at the Phi Sigma Epsilon Alumni Association-owned chapter fraternity house at 1509 Second Street. The revocation of the charter, amongst other things, resulted in considerable losses to the house contents in a "trashing" of the house by parties unknown. The PSE Alumni Association, as owners of the house and represented by the PSE Alumni Association officers, chose to close the doors of the fraternity house until a decision could be made with respect to its future.

In January 1987 the fraternity house and lot were sold to a group of investors from Champaign who razed the house in March 1987 and built a 4-story apartment complex on the site for student housing. The address is still 1509 Second Street.

What Now?

The sale of the House and property at 1509 Second Street in Charleston, better known to you all as the Phi Sig House, was the culmination of a number of events forcing the inevitable conclusion. As described above, the fraternity had merged, essentially negating the display of any PSE identification; the university had revoked the Charter of the PSK group and the final "trashing" of PSE history at the House all contributed to the only solution the PSE Alumni Association could make. The House and property were appraised, and a group of investors from Champaign bought it, razed it and built a new student housing unit.

Since the House was free of the original mortgage, the sale price plus an insurance settlement, minus an interior-improvement mortgage and all outstanding active chapter bills and legal fees, left a sizable investment for the PSE Alumni Association Board to ponder. It has sat in various interest-bearing accounts and still does to this date. The question has been raised by many concerned Phi Sig alumni about what should be done with our investment beyond letting it sit. Numerous suggestions have been made, cussed and dis-

cussed, with one predominant idea being soundly favored by almost everyone.

Therefore, it is the PSE Alumni Association Board's policy that a Scholarship program is to be set up by the aforementioned Association, exclusive of the university, to help out all identified children of former Phi Sigs (PSE that is) – Delta Chapter at EIU. Upon receipt of the enclosed informational questionnaire and verification of children attending or about to attend EIU, initial contacts with the parent (EIU-PSE alumnus) and the student will follow. The monetary scholarship is free of all payback and will be awarded to all students meeting the criteria, as set forth in the questionnaire and upon completion and submission of the questionnaire and parental contact being established. This scholarship grant will be awarded annually beginning with the second year of attendance at EIU and has no provisions as to how it must be used.

Further inquiry may be addressed to the attention of Phi Sigma Epsilon Alumni Association, P.O. Box 931, Charleston, IL 61920. Please be sure to send your address and telephone number.



Top row (left to right) – Gray Sweatshirts – 4" Greek sew-on letters, silver and red crest, gold and red crest.
Bottom row (left to right) – T-shirts – Silver and red crest on white t-shirt, silver and red crest on gray t-shirt, silver and red crest on red t-shirt, gold and red crest on red t-shirt.

Need a New P.S.E. Sweatshirt?

In an attempt to locate any Phi Sigma Epsilon memorabilia before it all disappears, the P.S.E. Alumni Association was fortunate to find some styles and colors of the original crest at a local merchant's shop. Most are not available anymore due to changes in technology for transfers onto sweatshirts or t-shirts, but we were able to cut and paste a composite which we have now made up as a new transfer design. It is silver and red with another version being gold and red. We also have a 4" Greek-letter sew-on, onto a heavy-duty sweatshirt.

Because local P.S.E. alums wanted new logo t-shirts and sweatshirts, the P.S.E. Alumni Association chose to buy quantities of the different style and color t-shirts and sweatshirts. The t-shirts are a 50-50 blend of fabric and the sweatshirts are heavy-duty Russell Athletic wear. A summer campout last year and Homecoming '90 wiped out two complete orders of t-shirts and sweatshirts, so they appear to be popular.

The P.S.E. Alumni Association is making them available to any brother requesting them. They will sell for \$10 for a t-shirt or \$15 for sweatshirts. The sweatshirt especially is a great deal because a local merchant, Dale Bayles on Campus, is able to provide us with the Russell sweatshirts in seconds quality. However, they are virtually indistinguishable from first quality sweatshirts. Shipping costs are \$3.00 per order. For a complete listing of different t-shirts/sweatshirts available, send request to our return address.



The Phi Sigma Epsilon Alumni Association is saddened to learn of the death of a brother, Gary Davis, of Warsaw, Indiana, formerly of Charleston, Illinois. Gary was active at the House from 1979 to 1981 after graduating from Charleston High School in 1979. He majored in Industrial Technology at E.I.U. and worked as a design engineer for a man-

Lost & Found

Do you know the whereabouts of these Phi Sigs? If you do, let us know so we can include them in the next mailing.

Doug Rose (D.R.)
Don Bellefeuille
Bill Anderson (Cowboy)
Neil Nichols (Stacy)
Keith Gotthardt (Dizzy)
Jerry Rankin (Morlock)
Bob Meskan

Also, let us know what kind of articles or information you'd like to see in your newsletter.

P.S.E. Alumni Officers

Your Alumni Association officers for the 1990-1991 term of office are the following:

Boone Chaney – President
112 Seventh Street
Charleston, IL 61920
(217) 345-1684

Jeff Moore – Treasurer
1400 Krishire Drive
Charleston, IL 61920
(217) 345-1687

Gary Brinkmeyer –
Vice-President
910 Tenth Street
Charleston, IL 61920
(217) 345-4684

Marvin Randolph –
Board Member
506 Monroe
Charleston, IL 61920
(217) 345-3297

On Homecoming Day each year, a slate of nominees is advanced to the current P.S.E. Alumni Association officers for consideration of Alumni Association upcoming officer nominations. These nominations take place on the first regularly scheduled Alumni Association meeting following Homecoming, typically sometime in November. Therefore the above denoted officers will serve in their capacity until at least the Board meeting in November 1991.

Brother Eternal

ufacturing company in New Paris, Indiana. We extend our sympathy to his parents, Eugene and Fran, brother Lane Davis and sister-in-law Deb, and daughters Meagan, 7, and Emily, 3, as well as other relatives. Gary's older brother Lane, was also a Phi Sig and was active at the House in the early '70s.

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

**ALUMNUS
INFO.**

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone (_____) _____
Year Graduated from EIU _____
Years Attended EIU – 19____ to 19_____

**P.S.E.
INFO.**

Pledge Class Year _____
Active Member – 19____ to 19_____

**STUDENT
INFO.**

Name _____
Campus Address (if known) _____
Telephone (if known) _____
Projected EIU Start Date (Semester) _____
Projected Graduation Date _____



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