

Phi Sigma Epsilon Delta Alumni Association

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



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Fall 2023

The 51st Annual PSE Camp-In - Sept. 22-24, 2023

With the onset and completion of the above-noted Phi Sig Camp-In, we officially begin the second half-century of a Brotherhood getting together for a weekend of camaraderie and living in the past. As you can see from the date, we just did complete that event. The perfect weather made it easy for everybody to participate in all kinds of extracurricular activities, besides the normal bantering within different groups.



Guys keeping dry under the porch roof are L to R, Boone Chaney, Dick Swing, John Ziebarth, Tom Swanson & Jim Luthé.

Our weekend begins just after the 1 PM hour on Friday afternoon, with the Brothers and their wives (if applicable) showing up at the appointed hour, and seeking out their room assignments. The ravages of time and our specific health needs dictate, in many cases, the need for a ground-level room, so accommodations are made to compensate for that as much as possible. Unfortunately there are usually not enough ground-level rooms versus the desire

or need for one, so it becomes a juggling act. Even so, the spirit of Brotherhood is still evident, when rooms are tacitly switched within those assembled, if it can help out someone in not having to navigate the stairways to the second-level rooms. Once settled in, the totes of year-to-year supplies and the weekend foodstuffs and drinks (beer or spirits) that we all bring to the Camp-In, are unloaded into the main kitchen area refrigerator. Outside, under the canopied porch areas, all the portable coolers serve as mini-refrigerators for the already cold beer and the panoply of other mixed drinks, soda and water.

It takes 4-5 hours of visiting, snacking and drinking amongst ourselves (guys in one group, gals in another) before the pangs of hunger awaken the need to get something in our bellies. LaDonna Swanson has usually plied us with her famous deviled eggs, bacon-wrapped shrimp and ham/pickle wraps, some in the Friday afternoon, but mostly on Saturday afternoon. But, our choice meal of the evening has been left to everyone's own choice, in that everyone is supposed to bring their own meat to cook on the grill. From the supply tote, we seek out the charcoal and set up 2 large Weber charcoal grills to do their jobs. Once the coals are white-hot, the procession begins with the guys throwing on a multitude of different meats, some with \$18/lb steaks, some with fish filet portions and even hamburgers too. With the meats cooked to choice color or texture, and removed, the next batch is added. There are plenty of salads, casseroles, desserts and other go-withs that have been provided by all those present, some of it bought, but much of it prepared as a side dish with the choice of meat. After the meals are put to good use and the cleaning up is done, the fire prep-time is at hand. It is already becoming dark enough, that the light of the fire startup provides enough light to see what selections of scrap woods and split firewood is best to get the fire roaring. Having received numerous donations of wood, it is our intent to burn up all that wood, not taking anything home with us upon leaving. It has worked out well over the last few years. The entrenchment of sitting around the fire pit (with a 3-4 foot high fire mesmerizing everyone after a filling meal), does it's job and by 10 PM, most couples have gone to bed, leaving a few heartier Brothers to shut 'er down!



Gals keeping dry under the porch roof are L to R, Mary Ann Carrell, Sue Everett, Barb Swing, Sharon Brinkmeyer, Therese Kincade, LaDonna Swanson & Chris Ellis.

Saturday morning, early o'clock, finds a caffeine-lacking crowd hovering around the multiple coffee makers, with our barista, Bob Kincade, doling it out as fast as he can. I have my traditional one cup of coffee per year, replete with about 8-10 sugar cubes and an 1/4 cup of milk (it's the only way I can drink coffee). Did you also know that it is an excellent diuretic? Several of the ladies are readying the home-prepared egg/sausage casseroles for the oven and Mike Ellis is cooking up his pork sausage patties, that traveled over from Ohio. There are numerous pastries that have been provided by some in attendance and the word has gone out that Dave Carrell has brought his world-famous Apple Crisp dessert once again. After all, Apple Crisp is not just for dessert anymore. A run to town (Findlay) to get Vanilla ice cream is a fitting end to the dessert dilemma. The early Saturday morning rush has been precipitated by the need for the two foursomes of golfers to meet their designated tee-time of 9 AM at the Eagle Creek golf course, some 10+ winding miles away. The foursomes were Dave Carrell, Gene Everett, Dick Swing and John Tate, for the guys, and Sue Everett, Barb Swing, Sharon Brinkmeyer and Therese Kincade, for the gals. After playing nine holes, they returned for lunch, and in the case of the gals, to get ready to take a girls trip to the Arpeggio Winery in nearby Assumption, IL. The rest of us sat around the main building meal table, seeking out seconds of all the different food selections and discussing all that has gone on in their lives since the previous Camp-In. Of course, at our age now, we do discuss all the different ailments we now possess and the medications we take. Some of our group tells of the replacement surgeries they have recently had, or are about to

have, or about our almost 40-50 year-old kids, our grandkids in college and the like. We often interject each other with the sentiment of hearing our own parents in the past, and at that time thinking, get a life! Turns out, that's what they were doing-trying to maintain a life, just like us now. After cleaning up the breakfast dishes, Tom Swanson brought over his home-made, Chicago Bears advertised, corn hole ramps and set them up. There were those later, upon playing and losing, who claimed that they were at a different spacing than in the past years. For my own part, I thought they were great, or maybe it was the new corn hole bags; in any case, I played well, but still got whooped by the champion team of Tom Swanson and Jim Luthe. The hot sun on an otherwise beautiful day, prompted us to sit under the canopied roof porch of the main building, drink our brewski's, visit (telling old stories is a form of visiting), snack on all the different treats people brought (white chocolate dipped pretzel sticks was a favorite). Since having Covid last year, two weeks before the Camp-In, I have lost most of my taste and smell senses, with only a few things that "pop" for me, one being very sweet tastes, i.e. the pretzel sticks. At about this time, one of our newer attendance Brothers, Mike Garretson, showed up to spend the rest of the day, the Fish Dinner and part of the evening before going back to Springfield, IL. Mike came last year too, staying in his trailer at a campsite at Coon Creek, on Lake Shelbyville. He claimed then, that our fish at the Saturday evening Fish Fry was the best he had ever had. Credit for that goes to Gene Everett, who provides the fish filets each year, mostly striped bass from TN, but in previous years from Clinton Lake, here in IL. Dave Carrell usually brings the fresh corn-on-the-cob ears, and in the later afternoon, they are husked and readied for the large boiling kettles. Another older PSE Brother and his wife have showed up to visit and partake of the Fish Dinner too. Dick Christman and his wife Aggie (EIU Alpha Gam) used to be regulars on the yearly camping circuit, but have gotten away from it for a number of years, due to a bevy of grandkids and helping out the sons-in-laws in the farming harvest schedule. Some recent surgery for Aggie has slowed their lives down a bit. We were happy to see that Aggie looked great and is on the mend for a full recovery.



Another grouping later under the porch roof are clockwise L to R, LaDonna Swanson, John Tate, Dick Christman, Gene Everett, Tom Swanson, Mike Garretson, Jim Luthe (standing), Mike Ellis, Gary Brinkmeyer, Dick Swing, John Ziebarth & Aggie Christman (foreground).

And speaking of recoveries, we wish the same for Jeanne Henry, the beloved wife of our Campout progenitor, Charlie Henry. We missed her physical presence this year, but were enamored with plenty of stories about her from previous years and some of her favorite jokes. The news about her health struggles so far, has been generally positive, but we decided as a group to offer up a prayer, in the hope that she would feel our presence with God in her life. Just before dinner preparations, our whole group of some 25+ PSE'ers formed an unbroken circle, each holding another's hand and listened to a prayer of intercession penned by Jim Luthe. As stated later, we mortals can do much, but ultimately God is the final arbiter. Know that we walk with you in spirit, Jeanne. And how about the Michigan "Maize 'n Blue" too-they are providing plenty of spirit, both as Jeannie's alma mater and favorite team. With that concluded, the meal preps continued as the early darkness is setting in.



Just prior to the deep fryer startup are L to R, Mike Garretson, Gene Everett & Mike Ellis.

Around the appointed hour of 6 PM, the Everett and Luthe-provided fish fryers are fired up, the peanut oil is added and the thermometer used to maintain an accurate cooking temp goes to work. Water is added to the big, boiling kettles for the previously husked corn to go in. All the ladies, some of whom had returned earlier from the Winery, now go to work in various endeavors-it is like a symphony in progress, where each instrument is crucial to the finished sound. One group works on the corn, another slices up tomatoes from Mike Ellis in Ohio (super good, meaty, juicy, plump varieties), others are assembling and dipping the fish filets in the special flour/corn meal mixture, while another group is carrying in pans of deep-fried fish. The multiple refrigerators provide their various salads that were brought from home or

assembled earlier and the ovens provide some additional hot casseroles. As you can see from pictures accompanying this article, we all have a role to play, including the picture of all the assorted liquors, which has also played a role in the whole weekend.



Fish preparations going on inside with L to R, Barb Swing, Chris Ellis, Sue Everett, Therese Kincade & Bob Kincade coating the fish with the secret ingredients.

Unlike the days at EIU, when we consumed mass quantities of differing beverages, many of these go home with varying levels of contents still left in them. With all the food and accoutrements set out, the dinner bell welcomes everyone to fill their plates and enjoy the fruits of everyone's labor, several times over, if they wish. With no rhyme or reason to it, everyone cozies up to eat and visit at the same time, some being inside around the table or on the sofas/coffee tables, while others utilize the outside picnic tables in the waning light. There is always enough fish and packages of fish even go home with those lucky enough to get some. Many Brothers and ladies pitch in with the cleanup, while others go outside to get the fire going again in the fire pit and get rid of more firewood. There was a day, when we used to sit around the fire, retelling our favorite jokes from years past-we still do tell old stories about adventures from past campouts, that are now camp-ins. Not so much for jokes anymore though-we have either forgotten the flow of words to the joke or, more likely, we have forgotten the punchline. All the lawn chairs around the firepit become gradually occupied and the stories about a hundred different events in the past and present emanate from those chairs. While Dick Christman (Wailer) is still present, one of the favorites was from the earlier days (70's), when Wailer showed up on the bluffs of Lake Michigan at about 10 PM in the evening and promptly emptied the contents of his tentpoles bag. With the headlights of his vehicle trained on the future tent site, we Brothers went over to help him out with putting his tent up. Upon our asking about which poles go with each other, he exclaimed that he had figured it out this year-he color coded all the poles, so he would know which went with which. Upon our inspection of

these color coded poles, we exclaimed rather assiduously, "Wailer, you dumb ass (or similar)! These are all white poles."



liquid lunches for the whole weekend!

Upon hearing that, he began his diatribe of technical information, which eventually probably explained the formation of the Cosmos and the Milky Way too. Eventually, it came out that he had used and emptied out different cans of leftover paint to get rid of them, those being Eggshell White, Bone White, Gloss White, Flat White, Ceramic White and probably others. Eventually we got the tent up, but the story lives on and probably gets embellished over the years-just the facts, ma'am!, as Jack Webb used to say.



just before the cooking and assorted meal go-withs are assembled in the main cabin kitchen are L to R, John Ziebarth, Tom Swanson, Bob Kincade, Dave Carrell, Gene Everett, Mike Ellis & John Tate.



Ye Olde Firepit-our constant companion during the cooler evenings.

Obituaries

Once again, I sadly have to report a large number of obituaries, each representing the loss of another “Brother of the Heart.” And, as I did in the Fall 2022 PSE Newsletter, there are two groupings of Brothers who have passed. The upper listing of names represents those Brothers who have passed in the current 2023 calendar year, while the lower, larger listing represents those whom we have lost over an extended period of years. **Rest in Peace, Brothers!**

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.

Gordon E. Mool
Larry A. Diak
Kenneth E. Ozier
Norman E. Kerans

Nelson T. McMullen
Robert J. Meskan
Stephen L. Whitley

Phillip T. Thornton
Richard H. Shiley
Marvin E. Caple

James M. Ford
Lynn P. Keeper
Douglas S. Rose
Kenneth R. Vick
Ronald P. Hanke
Roger L. Johnson
Charles F. Keene

William T. Bauer
James M. Moore
Robert L. Daniels
Fred G. Giovagnoli
Glenn A. Hoffman
Lloyd B. Ludwig
Franklin J. Wolf

G. Stephen Cooper
Fred B. McKenzie
James S. Fanakos
Michael D. Greer
Dennis E. Teufel
Lawrence I. Smith
Dennis L. Voyles

The South PSE Get-together Continues On

Thanks to the efforts of Bill Granger, Pat Wesley and Randy Rothrock, the gathering of Phi Sigs living in the area northeast of St. Louis continued on for another year. Now, there may be more people also involved with this foray, but that’s who I see online or on the phone. Typically there have been 10-12 Brothers show up, mostly at Bill Granger’s previous home in Moro, IL or Pat Wesley’s home in Holiday Shores, IL. Bill has recently sold his home after buying a condo in Naples, FL, but still spends a great deal of time in the area, where his State Farm office is still located. For this summer’s get-together and several past ones too, we have been meeting at the Prairietown Tavern in nearby Prairietown, IL. It is a pretty nice venue, with plenty of outside seating, decent bar food and indoor seating, if necessary. This year’s get-together was on June 10, 2023, at Noontime at that Prairietown Tavern. Present for the “living in the past” activities were Pat Wesley, Otto Hartman, Roger Long, Otto Daech, Bill Granger, Randy Rothrock, Dave Norris, Larry Carli, and me, Gary Brinkmeyer. Missing this year were some past regulars, namely Boone Chaney, Jim Mentz, Jerry McChristian and Al Ortegren. Sadly, Al missed because his wife, Bobbi, was experiencing some medical issues, which ultimately led to her passing in early September 2023. We mourn her passing and extend our sincere condolences to Al Ortegren and his family.



*This year's group of attendees in the outside seating area:
Clockwise from far left: Pat Wesley, Roger Long, Bill Granger,
Larry Carli, Randy Rothrock, Gary Brinkmeyer, Dave Norris, Otto
Daech & Otto Hartman.*



Looking towards the indoor seating and outside bar: L to R, Otto Daech, Dave Norris, Otto Hartman, Larry Carli, Pat Wesley, Bill Granger & Roger Long.

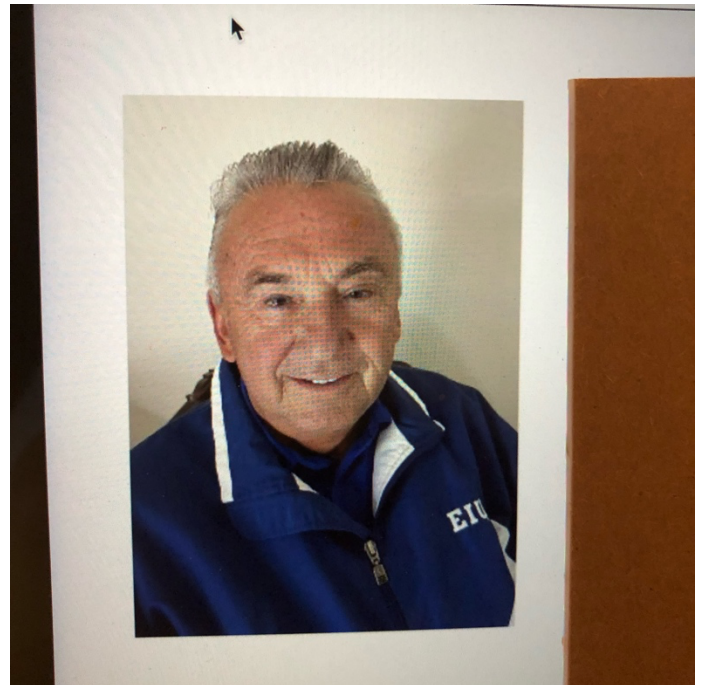
Some pictures of this year's group are included with this article-it was such a great, sunny, warm day, that we spent the time outside after initially meeting inside. There were no servers outside until a later hour, so we managed to serve ourselves. Didn't we always used to do that? Looking forward to the get-together next year already!!



Fall '66 Pledge Class Attendees: L to R: Randy Rothrock, Gary Brinkmeyer & Roger Long. Al Ortegren, another Pledge Class member, was not able to attend. Note the R.L. digital salute.

Another Deserved Honor for Darrell Brown

Acclimation has come again to one of our own Brothers, specifically Darrell Brown, who now resides in Hoopston, IL. Darrell was inducted into the Greater Illiana Sports Hall of Fame as part of the second year of honorees. Citing the information directly from their website, it states "The Greater Illiana Sports Hall of Fame is a product of the Greater Illiana Sports Foundation. The Foundation is a not-for-profit organization that raises money for scholarships awarded to student athletes from designated Eastern Illinois and Western Indiana High Schools." "The Greater Illiana Sports Hall of Fame was created to honor the outstanding achievements of athletes, coaches, teams, officials and media. A total of 76 individuals and 19 teams have been inducted in 2022 and 2023."



Picture of Darrell as shown on the GreaterillianasportNOS.org website.

The listed athletic accomplishments for Darrell establish that he was more than qualified to receive the award. Here is that listing from some 50 years ago, which would be impressive even in today's athletic prowess.

- ❑ Graduate of Bismarck-Henning High School and Eastern Illinois University.
- ❑ Competed in five sports as a prep; cross country, track, baseball, basketball and football.
- ❑ Won NCAA Division-II long-jump championship in 1974.
- ❑ Three-time All-American.
- ❑ Ran leg on EIU's 440-yard relay team placing 5th nationally.
- ❑ Ran leg on EIU's 880-yard relay team that set school record.
- ❑ Competed for Chicago Track Club (1975-1978).

On a related note, I received a note from EIU Athletics in April of this year, as part of a fundraising effort, stating that Darrell's 50-year old long jump record was broken this year, but only by one inch. That is a testament to the incredulous record that you set back then. We are all incredibly proud of all your achievements over the years and the recent recognition of those achievements, Darrell.



Presentation of the 2023 Award inclusion into the Greater Illiana Sports "Hall of Fame" on June 25, 2023.

Updates to the PSE Archives Room in Charleston, IL

The PSE Archives Room in Charleston, IL, started out as an add-on room to my original garage almost 15 years ago now. In the excitement of getting old PSE items that had been donated and stored over the years, out of boxes and cabinets and onto walls and shelves, the stark furnishings needed an upgrade. Having mostly been dumpster diving rejects from the Eastern student population upon leaving for summer vacation, they were due for replacement. The waiting rooms from the local hospital provided almost-new condition seating chairs and ridding the old furnishings opened the room up to new ideas of displaying long-ago donated PSE paraphernalia. On the north wall, opposite the entry stairs, the window unit and mini-fridge (note red "Barney" at right) break up the surface that now displays "smalls" (as the American Pickers call them) on shelves and wall surfaces, over to the corner Warbler bookshelf unit.

The new wall area displaying PSE paddles, PSE pledge canes and PSE clothing features a lot of items on part of the east wall, that were kind of hidden before, because of poorly configured or unused areas. Proceeding south (clockwise) from that east paddle wall, you can see the big PSE crest, with lots of wall displays to the left, including even the donated signature "panties" in the lower middle of the picture. Finally, from over the years are the different groupings of PSE Composite pictures. The earliest is '61-'62 and the latest is '86, with numerous other years missing from that sequence, but in general, a good representation. They are displayed within horizontal ribs, that allow you to remove the picture to peruse it from the area seating, and then easily replace it. The two large composite pics at the top right are the 1949 and 1951 PSE Composites, with a more recent mid-70's PSE group in front of the 1509 Second St. House between them. If you are ever close by and want to stop in for a look-see and a "cold one", don't hesitate to call me. My email address and phone number are listed in the Newsletters.



New furniture along the original west wall of the Archives Room. Everything behind the seating is original!



The other half of the north wall, with seating, lamps, wall plaques and Warbler bookcase.



The new north wall shelving with a collection of donated "smalls", with "Barney" overseeing the new seating and beer fridge.



The previously wasted space on the east wall has found a new purpose, displaying PSE paddles, pledge canes, wall plaques and PSE clothing.



Moving south along the east wall are various displayed items and the signed "panties" festooning the cabinet end piece just below the old PSE Crest.



The rest of the east wall, displaying the old PSE Composite pictures, with the two oldest composites on the bulletin board, and the mid-70's PSE House & Brothers in the middle.

The Annual Almost Summer Phi Sig Golf Open-June 12, 2023

With the onset of the cooler Fall weather, or dare I say, COLD Fall weather, it seemed an apropos time to relay the story of the June 12, 2023, PSE Golf Outing. Once again, Darnell Houghton (Steve) took it upon himself to organize this annual get-together, again this year at the Turtle Run Golf Club in Danville, IL. Since I did not play in this event, thereby allowing the event to finish in a reasonable time, I will mostly present the outing from the perspective of the pictures that were posted on the PSE Facebook page. There were some 30+ pictures of the attendees posted on Facebook, and I took the liberty of absconding some of those pictures for this article. Obviously, I don't have the space to include all the pictures within the article, so there is the one group picture of all the attendees, along with a menagerie of other rote photos on the course and in the clubhouse. I don't know if any scores were kept, but no awards were doled out for specific feats of excellence on the course. More often than not, these gatherings have become more of a rationale for just getting together once a year or so, inasmuch as we are not getting any younger. The group this year again included several long distance travelers, those being Tom Brown (CA) and Bill Robinson (AZ), with Bo Walters (MO), hustling to be included in that long-distance group. The rest are all common Illinois travelers, primarily living in the central or north-central part of the state. One attendee, Craig Green, while not a Phi Sig, is a friend to many in attendance and fits in just like any other Phi Sig does. With all that being said, it is time to turn over the rest of the story to the pictures, to let them finish the story of the Phi Sig Open in 2023.



The 2023 PSE Golf Group - L to R - Bo Walters, Darrell Brown, Joe Fournier, Bill Robinson, Jeff Moore, Gary Kling, Tom Brown, Terry Rienbolt, Rick Ratliff, Larry Baker, Steve Houghton, John Tate & Dick Swing.



The Four Amigos golf foursome - L to R - Bo Walters, Bill Robinson, Gary Kling & Joe Fournier.



"Where'd it go" seems to be the expressed sentiment. L to R - Craig Reed, Dick Swing, Tom Brown & Darrell Brown.



"Who's Helping Who", looking for a ball, no doubt! I'm guessing Tater is one of them!



Lined up and raring to go, with Gary Kling and Bo Walters guarding their cart.



Ah, the 19th Hole- L to R - John Tate, Jeff Moore, Darrell Brown, Craig Reed, Gary Kling & Tom Brown.

The PSE Student Awards Philanthropy

From the Fall of 1991, until about 2015, the PSE Alumni Assn. was intimately involved with the implementation and continuation of the PSE Student Awards program. This program offered a financial staple of \$500 to any child of a former Phi Sig (Delta Chapter) at Eastern Illinois University. An informational form (printed below) is required to get the process started. Send it back to the local address for the PSE Alumni Assn.

STUDENT AWARDS INFORMATION

Alumnus Name _____

Info.

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone () _____ Email _____

EIU Graduation _____ Years Attended EIU – 19__ to 19__

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

Student Name _____

Info.

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone () _____ EIU I.D. Number _____

Projected EIU Start Date (Semester) _____

Projected EIU Graduation _____