



Phi Sigma Epsilon Delta Alumni Association

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



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Gary Brinkmeyer – Editor psebrink@mchsi.com

Fall 2024

PSE Annual Student Awards - Version 2.0

The lead article in the Fall 2018, PSE online Newsletter, was entitled “It Was a Good Run For a Good Cause” and it was about the demise of our EIU student base, who would have been eligible for the PSE Student Award. We had not had anyone receive that monetary stipend for two years, so it was time to suspend the insertion of the Informational form at the end of the PSE Newsletter. However, we did provide a codicil to that suspension, stating that should we learn of a PSE-affiliated student or are approached by any Phi Sig parent seeking information about the PSE Award, we would potentially open that award again.

conversation, that then evolved into his asking me if we (PSE Alumni Assn.) were still doing the PSE Student Awards program. I told him that I thought we were, although it had been seven years since we had had a recipient. I informed him that I would contact our PSE Alumni Assn. president, Jim Luthe, to run the information by him and see if he agreed that we were still “open for business”, so to speak. Jim concurred that we could still provide those \$500 stipends to eligible students, who were children of Phi Sigma Epsilon members (Delta Chapter) at EIU.

With that concurrence, I had to once again insert the Student Awards Information template into the upcoming Fall 2023 PSE online Newsletter, which I was finishing up at the time. I also contacted Dennis to inform him of our acquiescence of the Awards program and to make sure that he sent the PSE Student Award Information form back to me by June 1, 2024. Upon receiving that form from him in ample time, it was now just a waiting game. Since the summertime passes by quickly and families have travel obligations, dates had to be set early, for both the traditional catered meal plans and getting a few Phi Sigs together at my home in Charleston. After conferring with everyone involved, an August 11, 2024, date was chosen for the Twenty-Seventh Annual Student Awards program and luncheon.

Fast forward again, to August 11th, 2024. With the inclusion of the 4-member Pearson family coming to the luncheon, my wife Sharon, and I, as well as another local Phi Sig, Larry Reed (Gomer), comprised the small group for the Award program. Although I was hoping Jim Luthe could attend, he had informed me that he was experiencing some medical issues and would not be able to attend. Gomer’s son is married to the daughter of my next door neighbor, so I was hoping he could pull a two’fer, attend our luncheon and see his in-laws too. Before everyone arrived, and because it was such a nice weather day, we decided to set up tables outside on the driveway. Shortly thereafter, the caterer showed up with our lunch, including chicken breasts, hamburgers, potato salad, baked beans, broccoli salad, drinks, condiments and the caterer’s famous chocolate brownies, slathered with chocolate frosting. With everyone enjoying the meal, it was time to move on. Everyone shared a few words about their goings-on since leaving EIU, and Andrew shared his



Andrew Pearson(right), receiving Student Award check from Gary Brinkmeyer.

Fast forward to the early Fall of 2023, and a chance encounter that took place at Ike’s Bar. My wife and I were having a meal there, when we were recognized by Dennis and Rita Pearson. Dennis was a Phi Sig from the early 80’s, who lives in Charleston. He and wife, Rita, both work locally and have two sons, Alex and Andrew. Alex had just graduated from EIU in 2023 and was getting ready to start grad school. Andrew was getting set to graduate in Spring 2024 from Charleston High School and had been accepted at EIU for the Fall 2024 semester. After finishing my meal, I was approached by Dennis with some general

aspirations, for the new experience of attending EIU. With that completed, it was time to get on with the check presentation and the requisite photos to remember the occasion. Some of those photos are part of this annotation.



*The Pearson family includes:
(L to R) Dennis, Andrew, Alex and Rita.*

We then retired to the PSE Archives Room, so Dennis, and family, could experience all the donated PSE paraphernalia, or live in the past for a bit. And so begins the PSE Student Award program again, culminating in a maximum of four years of financial offerings, and a graduation from EIU.



PSE Alumni Assn. members from L to R, Dennis Pearson, Gary Brinkmeyer and Larry Reed with Andrew Pearson.

Obituaries

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.

Greg B. Davis
Robert L. Hilligoss
Gordon W. Krietemeier
David J. Smith
Bill W. Lash
James D. Hlafka

Kenneth T. Ludwig
Hestin L. Richards
John E. Greathouse
Garfield C. Greathouse
Teddy E. Johnson

PSE Tidbits

The celebration of the 96th year of the Phi Sigma Epsilon Alumni Assn., with its celebratory **Reunion Date** has been set. **That date is set for June 19-21, 2026.** That's right! It is in the year 2026. But, you know what!! That time will be here before we know it-it's basically only a year-and-a-half from now. And, as far as we know at this point, it is still going to be held in Charleston. Now, for the rest of the news. The U-Hotel, where we have held the last four Reunions, has been sold to a new owner and it is still open. They are still renting rooms, but there is a glitch. The ownership of the hotel is, it appears, separate from the ownership of the restaurant within the hotel and the iconic bar that is also within the hotel premises. There is an ongoing effort to bring those two facilities under the umbrella of the hotel, to essentially provide services from all three entities. I have been in conversation with the new management, and they are in discussions with the restaurant and bar owners. I am being told that we would be welcome to the hotel, and if the restaurant was not in operation, we would be free to cater in our own menu of prepared food from a local vendor. We did do that at one of the earlier Reunions, and I don't recall there being any major issues. The Friday night soiree would again be back in the confines of the Roc's Bar, upstairs, as in the past. Roc's was sold last year locally (my old neighbor bought it). He and his wife are also the owners of Ike's Bar (actually she is) and could not bear losing Roc's to outside interests. Since that sale, Brandon Bell (owner) has totally refurbished the upstairs of Roc's and brought it back as a destination for group parties, and is making a success of it. I have already rented it for that Friday night in June, 2026. Sorry, couldn't get an elevator installed, so we'll have to deal with the stairs. But, you can't beat the atmosphere there. I will keep you apprised of developments as I know them. I am also checking in a small, local radius for other venues that might fit our requirements.

On March 4, 2024, I was scrolling through the Facebook pages online in Miramar Beach, FL, when I saw a picture of "Billy C" Carpenter and Bob Stout (and their wives) on the beach, also in Miramar Beach, FL. I texted Bill about possibly getting together- he texted me back that he was staying in San Destin (a golf course/resort about 5 miles from my residence). He was busy the next few days and Bob was going to be leaving for home in GA, but that we could get together the day before he left. So, we met at a quaint little bar within the golf compound for a few drinks, dinner and some socialization. I should say that, although I knew them from being together a few times since the mid-80's, we didn't run in the same circles. But, as soon as we re-introduced ourselves and started talking PSE memories, it was like we had just seen each other weeks before. Even the wives, Sharon (my wife), Terri (Bill's wife) and Gina (Bob's wife) commented that, from their perspective, we were old friends that just hadn't seen each other in a while, rather than decades. The PSE fraternity experience is mired deep within our memories, and it is fun to recollect it from time to time. Hope to see you in FL again, down the road! Here are a few pics to jog your memory!



This is the picture from Miramar Beach, FL, on Facebook, that precipitated our get-together. L to R-Bill Carpenter, wife Terri, Gina and Bob Stout.



Outdoor pic of Gary Brinkmeyer (L) and Billy C. in rear, and Bob Stout in front.



L to R-Bob Stout and Bill Carpenter inside the bar/ restaurant.

I regret to inform you of the passing of two of our elderly “Brothers of the Heart”—they were both still active enough that they attended the PSE Reunion in Charleston in June of 2022. The picture to prove it was in the Fall, 2022, PSE Newsletter, with both of them accompanying Sam Taber, to show that age is not a limitation to attendance at these reunions. John Greathouse was 96, and proudly proclaimed it (after driving himself from Mattoon)—he passed in June, 2024. The other Greathouse listed in the Brothers Eternal, Garfield, was a younger, real brother to John, as well as a fraternity Brother, who had passed in March, 2024 in Indiana. Also in the picture from the Reunion was Teddy Johnson, a resident of Urbana, IL. He just passed in September, 2024. The third Brother in the picture, as noted earlier, was Sam Taber, who would now be 92—he lives with his wife Mary Ann, in Savoy, IL. I am again posting this picture with this Tidbit of information, to honor all three of them, and to memorialize John and Teddy. R.I.P. Brothers!



Caption-L to R-Teddy Johnson, John Greathouse and Sam Taber.

At our annual PSE Spring meeting held on March 16, 2024, in the Phi Sig Archives Room in Charleston, IL, the PSE Board of Directors discussed a lot of old and new business. Part of that, was affirming dates for already planned events and also looking forward to plan upcoming dates. I shared information that was up-to-date as I knew it, about articles that are in this Newsletter, such as the annual PSE Camp-In, the proposed PSE Reunion, the annual PSE Golf Outing in Danville and our financial status as an organization. One of our Board members, whom most of you know, is Wally Kos. Wally assembles a 5-year moving projection of our financial position for each year, using information from our investments, our checkbook and the anticipated expenditures for these upcoming events. Wally has expressed the sentiment that he would like to have our financial position shared within our organization, that being within this Newsletter. I have a little concern with this, only inasmuch as I know that this Newsletter can be read by anyone with a computer, who happened upon this website. Tom Swanson, a computer guru, who did a lot of work for the PSE Alumni Assn., can testify to the fact that there are many would-be hackers out there eager to steal anything they can coax someone out of. So, let me say this to all of you—our investments from the original sale of the PSE House and property in 1986 (\$85K) are secure. Obviously we don’t have those kind of funds available to us now, almost 40 years later, and after 27 years of PSE Student Award disbursements, but we still have a nest-egg that would comfortably pay for a very nice SUV. Of

course, that amount is subject to the whims of the stock market and the affiliated mutual funds. But, if you would still like a more concrete answer to our funds balances, I can give it to you, if you want to contact me. You can email me at psebrink@mchsi.com or you can call me at my home phone (217) 345-4684.

The dream of a lifetime is coming true for a team of golfers next summer, specifically on August 9-19, 2025. No, this isn’t for a group of professional golfers that are teaming up against other nation’s golf professionals for some Cup. This is for a group of three Phi Sig-Delta Brothers, Steve Houghton-“Darnell”, Glenn Hoyt-“Whipper”, and John Tate-“Tater”, and a fourth man, a close friend of Darnell’s, Mark Lindvahl, who according to Darnell would have been a great Phi Sig. Those four guys are fulfilling a golf dream, by going to Scotland and play some magnificent courses. All the arrangements have been made, the courses have been booked, the flights to and from Scotland are booked and paid for, and they are looking into securing the services of a professional photographer that could design a photo memory keepsake for them, at a price, of course. On August 9th, all four leave Chicago for a direct flight to London, then a second flight to Glasgow, readying themselves for the rigors of Scottish golf. The courses are beautiful, rolling-hilled courses that do not accommodate golf carts. That’s right—you walk the 18 holes and you carry your own clubs, although I think you could hire a caddie-\$\$\$. They are scheduled to play seven different courses in ten days, with the infamous St. Andrews course being the Crown Jewel. Although St. Andrews is not booked yet, Darnell is optimistic that they can still get it by shuffling things around, according to Scottish officials. On the way home, all four will fly out of Edinburg on August 19th into Philadelphia, and then to Chicago, or into St. Louis (for “Whipper”), which is much closer to home for him. I’m anxious to hear about their adventure.

Hey there, Brothers of the Heart. I have a request to make of you. You remember when we were in school at EIU in the 60’s, 70’s and 80’s, and the Vantine Photo studio photographer would show up yearly on a particular date. He would take our individual photos, as we dressed in our PSE-crested blazers for the yearly PSE membership Composite. At a later date, we would all receive an individual 11” x 14” Composite picture (for a price, I’m sure) and the PSE House would receive a large, wall-hanging Composite picture. We typically hung that large master in the living room or down the hallways on the ground level. I now have all of the donated Composites display-shelved in the PSE Archives Room on the decorated second floor of my garage in Charleston, IL. So, here is my ask of you Brothers out there. Starting with the ’61-’62 Composite, and ending with the ’86 PSK Composite, there were 26 yearly Composites that were produced. I (PSE Alumni) have 18 of the different years on a wall display, but I would like to display the missing ones too. I have a local computer/printing businessman who can copy and correct fading Composites for a very reasonable price. If you have any of the dated Composites listed below, I would love to make a copy of it (them) and then return the Composite to you in post office mail. I will pay for all postage/ insurance costs both ways and can even send you an extra corrected copy of your Composite picture. I have already done this once for Jim Eisman, who lives in OH, but was visiting here earlier this year. He was very happy with his copies of two composites he was in. Here are the years of the individual Composites that I would like to copy. They are: **1963, 1966, 1967, 1973, 1975, 1978, 1979, 1984 and 1985.** Hope to hear from you, if you can help out!

The Annual Almost Summer Phi Sig Golf Open-June 3, 2024

The first notice I saw of the planned PSE Golf outing was a February 1, 2024, Facebook post from Steve “Darnell” Houghton on the PSE Facebook Website. Darnell has been in charge of this golf outing for a number of years and always has done a great job getting it organized. In that posting, he basically noted that he knew people were starting to plan trips and that he would avoid those dates if at all possible. Fast forward to several new postings from Darnell, Feb. 27th & Mar. 12th, that stated that he had upped the number of tee times for Monday, June 3rd, to 4 groups (16 people) at the Turtle Run Golf & Banquet Center in Danville, IL. So, it looks like the response was pretty fast, and since we are all pretty well retired, the Monday date was not a problem. Several Brothers also indicated they could arrive early on Sunday to get some additional Brotherly time in on the course, and there were even discussions about stretching time into Tuesday, if anyone was so inclined. A May 24th posting notifies those wanting a Sunday tee time, to be ready at 2:30pm. The Monday tee times start at 12:30pm and as noted, the Tuesday tee times would facetiously start “whenever we can haul our tired old butts out of bed and get to the course.” No problem with getting on the course, but as Darnell posted on Tuesday, June 4th, “Common sense prevailed, the handful that THOUGHT about playing again today...thought again!” And “IT GOT CANCELLED.” As usual, I did not attend and play in the 2024 Phi Sig Golf Outing, so I can’t share any details about how it all went, except to say it is always a “great time” when the Brothers can get together for any reason. Robin Wills did attend the golf outing, but only in the capacity of visiting all the Brothers and being the official photographer for the event. The pictures that emanated from his view of that fun day of PSE Golf are posted on the PSE Facebook Website for your perusal. But, because the access to that information is constrained by the minimal number of Phi Sigs who access the website, I will post some random pictures within this story from the days activities. Robin has graciously allowed me to use those pictures for this Newsletter’s story. There were many good pictures, but I had to restrict myself to a select number or the Newsletter would have stretched on for too many pages. Besides the tee time group pictures and the entire group picture, there were many leisurely pictures of the outdoor bar and seating area, where the guys could relax and ‘let their hair down’, so to speak. It was probably in that venue, where Darnell passed out to each golf participant, a personalized, PSE-crested, address Bag Tag, that he had obtained from a specialty advertising company, with a number left over for the next couple of years. One was even donated to the PSE Archives Room in Charleston, IL. The PSE Alumni Assn. voted unanimously to reimburse Darnell for the expense of the Bag Tags. Thanks Robin, for helping me out with the pictures for this short article, and Thank you Darnell, for all the work you did in making the Phi Sig Golf Open, a fun and successful outing for all the PSE Brothers involved.



PSE Golf Outing group includes L to R: Steve Houghton (Darnell), Dave Carrell (Townie), Steve Kiraly (Reno), Dick Swing (Swinger), Jeff Moore (Joe Willy), John Tate (Tater), Greg Walters (Bo), Rick Ratliff (Ratso), Glenn Hoyt (Whipper), Joe Fournier (Joe Teke), Darrell Brown (Jet), Terry Rienbolt (T-Bone), Tom Brown (Spunky T), Gary Kling (Klinger), Robin Wills (Robin) and Larry Baker (Bake).



Foursome includes L to R-Ratso, Tater, T-Bone & Bake



Fivesome includes L to R- Jet, Swinger, Townie, Craig Green (a friend of the Browns) & Spunky T.



Threesome includes L to R- Reno, Whipper & Joe Willy.



L to R-Klinger, Joe Teke, Bake, Robin, Reno, Ratso and the back of T-Bone.



Foursome includes L to R-Darnell, Joe Teke, Klinger & Bo.

Enjoying the outdoor bar camaraderie in the shade in the next three pics are:



L to R-Ratso, Bake, Reno & Whipper with back of unknown head.



L to R-T-Bone, Bo & Jet.

The 52nd Annual PSE Camp-In - Sept. 20-22, 2024

On a hot and sticky-humid Friday afternoon, the largest conclave of PSE campers in many years, gathered for the long weekend of reminiscing and living in the past. This was the 52nd year in a row for our core group and less for those other Brothers who do not attend every year. Our core group, from ages ago, includes Gene/Sue Everett, Dave/Mary Ann Carrell, Gary/Sharon Brinkmeyer, Dick/Barb Swing, Mike/Chris Ellis, Tom/LaDonna Swanson, Jeff/Rhonda Estes, Jim Luthe, John Tate and Paul Klopfenstein. Those also in attendance this year included John Ziebarth, Boone Chaney, Jerry Nyckel, Duayne Nyckel and Scott Hahn. One other core group couple that was not in attendance this year was Bob/Therese Kincade-they opted to go on an excursion to Scotland instead. It was jokingly asked-where are their priorities? Typically, we rent 15 individual bedrooms, scattered amidst five rustic, log cabins/lodges that are grouped together. And, as it so happened, we only had a need for 15 bedrooms this year. However, if the Kincade's had attended, I would have had to put a couple of singles together in a bedroom with two beds and there are only two bedrooms with that combination. We typically don't get the full attendance of campers like this year. And those in attendance represented travel from seven different states, those being KY, OH, FL (2), AL, SC, TN, and of course, mostly Illinois.

Did I mention that it was sticky hot upon arrival! Fortunately, the cabins are all air conditioned, and the site management had all the units operating and the temperature cranked down. Everybody helps everybody else when new campers show up, carrying the weekend's cache of suitcases, coolers (already loaded with ice and spirits), campfire wood, food items for different meals, pictures of all the kids/grandkids and much more, to their assigned bedroom units. I typically assign the bedrooms, so that everybody gets a rotation of the nicer, more spacious one bedroom cabins. It has become a matchmakers dilemma however, because many of us approaching our octogenarian years are experiencing a multitude of physical maladies, making stair climbing difficult or nearly impossible. With everything put away in our individual domiciles, it is time to quaff a cold one or three, under the extended porch roofs from the main five-bedroom lodge. By mid-to-later afternoon, everybody has arrived and are just catching up on stories and life's experiences since the previous year's Camp-In. At about 6PM, the hunger pangs have started, requiring us to ready the Weber charcoal grills for our choices of different meats. Friday night is always a BYO meat to grill, but the rest of your meal is sharing the different salads, casseroles, vegetables, desserts, chips and snacks, etc., that everyone in attendance has brought to share. The living room/kitchen/dining room great room area is soon filled up at the long table and spills over into the multiple sofa seating area. The large screen TV is on, with many people clamoring to watch the IL-NE football game, while eating at the same time. It was a good thing that we grilled when we did though, because that hot, sticky, earlier day morphed into a really heavy downpour of rain and nearby lightning (it seemed nearby anyway). Normally, we start a fire in the main fire pit with the onset of dark, but it was still so hot and sticky, and coupled with the rain, we postponed that idea. The rain continued for several hours and was still coming down off and on, until sleep started beckoning those with a few drinks and a full belly, to crash, as early as 10PM. Another group settled around the long table, to visit and sample a variety of wines and alcoholic drinks, until they

too, crashed at about 11:30PM.

In past years, Paul Klopfenstein served as the early morning coffee barista, because of his penchant for getting up very early in the morning. That job was gradually taken over by Bob Kincade, when Paul was not consistently able to attend the yearly Camp-In's. It was an easy transition, because Bob and Therese were the owners of the What's Cookin' restaurant, until they sold it a number of years ago. Even in the restaurant business, the coffee better be ready early, or you will have some disgruntled customers. So, with Bob and Therese drinking their coffee overseas this year, we gravitated back to Klop to head up the coffee production. And, he didn't fail us, having that magic elixir ready to go when the campers were getting up. Numerous other guys and gals then began the breakfast preparations, with all the accumulated foodstuffs being utilized. There were egg/sausage/potato casseroles to bake, pork sausage that Mike Ellis cooks every year (awesome taste), a multitude of bakery-made pastries, including Kringle from WI, with even samplings of desserts finding the table. With the rains over, and a much cooler (almost Fall-like) temperature replacing the hot and humid, many opted to take their breakfasts outside, to sit under our porch or at a picnic table.

Normally, the breakfast is the pretext for a group of 10-12 golfers heading out for an early morning tee time. But, not this year! Sharon usually handles all the arrangements for getting a course and setting the tee times. This year, she called four different area courses and was told by each one that there was already a booked outing from some other larger group, like a company or business, and that we were out of luck. That afforded us the opportunity to just casually sit around visiting with everybody after the dishes were done. Or, we could watch Saturday football games, peruse the different photo albums that give us an instant recollection of how we have aged and changed since 1973, drink beer, wine or liquor concocted drinks, and just generally live in the past. As we like to say, it don't get no better than that! With the morning about over and prior to the 3PM Phi Sig annual business meeting, La Donna Swanson appears once again from her lodge residence with her special treats that she shares with everyone anxious to try them. If I was living with her, I would be a blimp-they are so good. And it's not just one per person. You could make a meal of them. There are multiple bacon-wrapped shrimp on a toothpick (I'm having a Pavlov response as I write this), wrapped ham, pickle and cream cheese on a toothpick and her infamous large pretzel sticks dipped into a heavy coating of colored icings and then slathered with candy sprinkles. It's a good thing we don't plan a lunch. Generally, after having imbibed a few alcoholic beverages, we just start grazing on all the different foodstuffs that everyone has brought to share. It runs the gamut of homemade Apple Crisp (Dave Carrell) and Snickerdoodles (Barb Swing), bakery bought pastries and pies, to containers of mixed nuts, cashews and chocolate M&M's. It also includes the aforementioned pretzel sticks and periodically, homemade soups, chili's, bags of chips and crackers/cheese and sliced tomatoes from Mike Ellis in Ohio. With 3PM approaching, all the PSE Brothers congregated in the 4BR lodge across the street from all our other residences, to fulfill the obligation of having our Fall PSE Board meeting. With our Illustrious Potentate (Jim Luthe) in charge of the meeting, we buzz on through it pretty quickly. The

numerous items up for approval were discussed, and sometimes cussed, but eventually met with positive approval.

Because we are again missing our dear friend and bestest Brother, Charlie Henry, the progenitor of this whole Phi Sig camping experience, we called him and Jeanne, before dinner preps were begun. Charlie's beloved wife Jeanne, has been struggling with multiple health issues, that have precluded them from attending the last two Camp-Ins. Although a number of Brothers in our group maintain periodic contact with C & J, we always feel like we don't do enough. This call was an effort to have everybody in attendance at the Camp-In talk to Charlie, and Jeanne directly, if they chose to. With Charlie talking to us and Jeanne listening in the background, we wanted them to know the love and well wishes that we have for both of them.

With the Saturday afternoon daylight waning, the preparations begin for the traditional Saturday evening fish fry, which Gene Everett graciously offers every year. It is the Crown Jewel of the weekend's culinary offerings. The fresh corn-on-the-cob heads are husked and readied for the boiling pots of water, while the secret mixture of corn meal, spices, flour and some colloquial ingredients is readied for the fish filets. Gene Everett and Jim Luthe set up their propane deep-fryer cookers to bring the peanut oil to the perfect temperature for the scores of mostly white bass (stripers) filets. Different groups of others then prepare to dip and coat the filets, sending them off to the deep fryers. In only a few minutes, the first batch of deep-fried fish is ready, but held until the large aluminum pans are filled and covered. The refrigerators begin to be emptied of all the different salads, some vegetable-based, others fruit-based, sliced tomatoes, potato and lettuce salads and more. After 25 years of doing this, we know when to put the corn in the heated pots, so that it is done at about the same time as the fish. We have a traveling supply of all the accoutrements necessary to ready your meal, including plastic/regular silverware, chinet plates, various plastic cups, salt/pepper shakers, butter applicators for corn, choice of drinks (tea, water, milk, beer, alcohol etc.) and all the other food choices left over from Friday night and Saturday morning/lunch. There has been so much left over in past years, that a directive has had to go out to not embellish the quantities of foods that you bring. However, there is never a problem with too much fish-the excess (if any) always goes home with numerous people. Since the Saturday weather has been so good, many people took their loaded plates/drinks/utensils outside to the numerous picnic tables. Those not involved in the meal preparation are usually tasked with the dirty dishes cleanup afterwards, although there are those multitaskers who just jump in to get the task done, before retiring to the comfort of sitting around the roaring fire in the fire pit. With no fire on Friday night, we had an abundance of firewood to consume, so that it was not taken back home. All the bag chairs we brought from home, magically appeared, as did a myriad of conversations. Sitting around a warm, crackling fire with a sweatshirt on and a feeling of satiation from the evening fish dinner, gets everyone very comfortable. The cell phones pop out and the stored pictures of friends, children and grandchildren are shared around the fire pit, while another group paid more attention to the football games on in the big lodge. Gradually, the long day began to take it's toll, as people peeled off to their bedrooms, while a few of us added more wood to the fire. As it turned out, we still did leave a couple of bundles of firewood, but we managed to burn up all the small scrap pieces. With the fire still burning hot, the last of the entourage headed for their units.

Sunday morning finds Klop, up early and preparing the three large coffee-pots with their portions of that early morning liqueur, coffee. With everyone sauntering in at nearly the same time, it doesn't take long to deplete the coffee-makers of their contents into the 16 oz. coffee cups. This is also my only weekend of the year, when I imbibe my once-a-day cup of JOE! I love the smell of coffee, but don't like the taste, unless I sweeten it with milk/cream and about 8-10 teaspoons of sugar. In the past years, Sunday breakfast consisted of a number of different meal choices, including leftover casseroles, fresh fruits, French Toast, pancakes, leftover pastries and more Ohio-Ellis sausage. This year, it was Sharon's choice to fix her famous Biscuits and Sausage Gravy entree, as the base meal, and then followup with all the other leftovers to supplement that main course, if you choose. Again, those not proffered with meal offerings, begin the cleanup of the spoiled dishes/pots and pans. All those present are tasked with checking all the different leftovers, and taking them home, or leaving them out as the spoils of the weekend for anyone to take home. Checkout time is 10AM, to be out of your units, so that cleaners can come in and ready the units for the next batch of campers coming in. Since most everyone has a major drive in front of them, they are pretty well packed up and ready to go by 9AM, some by 8AM. Hugs and goodbyes are accorded to everyone as they finish packing their vehicles, whilst a few of us check all the vacated units for keys, emptying trash cans and locking the doors. I am usually among the last to leave, because I need to return all their keys, set up the schedule for next year's Camp-In, and finally, pay the bills for this year's successful Camp-In. Next year's Camp-In is scheduled for the weekend of September 19-21, 2025. Look forward to seeing you all again!!



Securing the adult beverages are L to R-Jerry Nyckel, Boone Chaney, Jim Luthe and Gene Everett.



Attending the Friday evening BYO grilling is John Ziebarth, with on-lookers L to R-Paul Klopfenstein, Mary Ann Carrell, Mike Ellis and Boone Chaney.



Table talk after the evening grilled meal are L to R-John Ziebarth, John Tate, Scott Hahn, Jeff Estes, Mike Ellis, Gene Everett and Dick Swing.



Enjoying the grilling results are L to R-Paul Klopfenstein (in prayer), Scott Hahn, Jerry Nyckel, Mike Ellis and John Tate.



Living room layout leading to upstairs and rear bedrooms. Seated are L to R-Rhonda Estes, Sue Everett, Chris Davis, Dave Carrell and Sharon Brinkmeyer. Note the Pledge t-shirt and pledge book on the back of sofa (Scott Hahn's).



Kitchen layout with assorted activities ongoing are L to R- Boone Chaney, Mike Ellis, Paul Klopfenstein, Sharon Brinkmeyer, Scott Hahn, Gene Everett and John Tate.



Enjoying the Saturday after-rain reprieve around the fire pit are L to R-Mary Ann Carrell, Chris Ellis, Sue Everett, Gene Everett, Barb Swing, LaDonna Swanson, Jerry Nyckel and Sharon Brinkmeyer.



Some of the keepsakes of our past days, including the Pledge t-shirt and Pledge book (Scott Hahn) and PSE paddle (Mike Ellis)



Enjoying the log cabin porch overhang are L to R-Tom Swanson, Sharon Brinkmeyer, Aggie Christman, Dick Christman, Paul Klopfenstein, Jim Luthe, John Tate and LaDonna Swanson.



Our own little picnic outside includes L to R-Dick Swing, Chris Ellis, Mary Ann Carrell and Barb Swing.



Saturday evening around the fire pit after the Everett Fish dinner- Don't get no better than that!



Sue Everett cleaning up after the Saturday evening Fish dinner, while the guys clean up the liquor bottle contents. Most are near empty!

The South PSE Get-Together Continues On

To the best of my knowledge, one of the original South Reunions was in the Fall of 1993, (October 30th, to be exact) within the confines of “The Shoe Factory” restaurant in Alton, IL, that was owned by Bob Hilligoss. At that gathering, there was a great outpouring of Brothers, mostly from the St. Louis area, but others scattered throughout Illinois. There were some 25 varied-age Brothers, who chose to put on their PSE sweatshirts or Fall attire to experience a great night of camaraderie. Not everybody knew all those in attendance, but it never takes too long to interject some experiences that we all knew of and could relate to. From that point on, it is like visiting with old friends, that we just haven’t seen in many years. Fast forward now to September 25, 2024, at the home of Larry and Donna Carli, located several miles outside of Edwardsville, IL, and adjacent to a Golf Course-Country Club. For numerous years in the past, we had usually gathered at Bill Granger’s home in Moro, IL, Pat Wesley’s home in Holiday Shores, IL, or more recently the Prairietown Tavern in Prairietown, IL. Larry (Carls) chose to host this group of Phi Sigs this year that included Otto Daeche, Otto Hartman, Dave Norris, Roger Long, Randy Rothrock, Al Ortgren (who flew up from Pensacola, FL), me (Gary Brinkmeyer), Bill Granger, Larry Carli, Pat Wesley and Boone Chaney (who was heading back to FL a week later). We were especially pleased that Bill Granger was present.

Bill had been experiencing a host of seemingly unrelated health issues since early 2024, while living in his condo in Naples, FL. He was hospitalized numerous times in FL, prior to finally coming back to the IL-MO area, where immediate family could be nearer to him. Even here, he was shuffled around to numerous facilities who could provide the specific care that he needed. Finally, he was able to recuperate enough strength to be released to the care of different family members in the area. While at this outing, he was the same old Grange that we all knew, but it was obvious that his bodily health had diminished. Even so, Bill chose to have his friends around him and provided all the grilled meats for the outing. Never having been one to go on-the-cheap, he provided three large packages of thick pork steaks and three large packages of multiple chicken pieces. It was probably enough to feed twice as many as those present. Everybody else in attendance was tasked with bringing a vegetable dish, dessert(s), salad(s), baked beans, etc., to share amongst those present. Drinks (beer, tea, water, etc.) were your own responsibility! Grange and I kept the Weber grill in check with the correct temps, BBQ sauce and garlic salt spritzing, with Carl’s help, until it was all cooked to everybody’s satisfaction. With all the preparations having been completed, everything was set out on Larry’s large and spacious kitchen island counter. After loading your plates, you could retreat to the dining room table, kitchen counter seating or go outside to the patio area seating where we had visited earlier. The meats were perfect and so were the rest of the provided go-withs for the

BBQ'ed thick pork steaks and chicken. After feasting, it was time to sit around and share some more living-in-the-past stories. My story of asking Mel Medder, as a pledge, if he wanted his Burger King burger with all the condiments or if he wanted it "pwain", (as I was instructed to pronounce by John Ostanik), always brings a flood of laughter. Many other gut-busting stories come out too, from everybody present, until the waning sunlight reminds us that it is time to head back home, with a few of us facing a drive of two hours or more. Bill and Larry refused to take any remunerations for the meats they provided, but did encourage everyone to take a to-go meal home with them, since there were ample portions of most everything left over. It has been another gathering of us Brothers, still yearning to remember all the shared experiences, the sad and funny stories of our Brothers, the memories of living in the House or just being a member of Phi Sigma Epsilon in those memorable years. The pictures accompanying this story give you the sense that we are not done yet-it is a craving to remember all the good times, the best times of our shared lives. In addition to the pictures from this Sept. 2024 gathering, I have included the original October, 1993 picture, that includes the identifications of all those present for that early Phi Sig South Reunion. So, this picture from the PSE Archives Room is 30+ years old and it still looks pretty good.



L to R-Dave Norris, Pat Wesley and Boone Chaney converse, while Al Ortegren gets a chuckle from someone or something!



Bill Granger starts out on the grill!



Waiting for the grill to finish up the meats are L to R(rear) Gary Brinkmeyer, Bill Granger, Roger Long, Otto Hartman, Otto Daech and Larry Carli, while Al Ortegren, Pat Wesley and Dave Norris hold down the front seating. Boone Chaney had left early and Randy Rothrock took the picture.



L to R-Otto Daech, Otto Hartman and Bill Granger help dole out the grilled meats and salads from the kitchen.



Fall '66 Pledge Class bros. standing L to R -Al Ortegren, Gary Brinkmeyer, Randy Rothrock, and seated in front, Roger Long. At far left is Pat Wesley, who was part of the Winter '66 Pledge Class.



Group photo from the 1993 South Reunion

Those pictured in the front row are L to R-Jim Davis, Steve Ringhofer, Bob Hillgoss, Ron Fedorchak (plaid shirt), Al Ortegren, Tom Homma, Dick Level, Roger Long (Gary Brinkmeyer on his shoulders), Larry Carli and Mike Goodman. In the back row are L to R-Doug Rose, Dwayne Chaney, Otto Daech (red sweater), Mike Edwards (face blocked), Mel Medder (face blocked), Bill Granger (beard), Sheridan Pulley, Loren Hunsaker, Jack Vaughan, Bob Durham, Bob Colter, Randy Richardson, Rich Carr and Tom Evans.

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 by June 1st, 2025, to the local address for the PSE Alumni Assn. That address is:

Gary Brinkmeyer
910 Tenth St.
Charleston, IL. 61920

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 _____