



Delta Delta Data

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DELTA DELTA DATA

SUMMER 2000

DELTA DELTA CELEBRATES 125 YEARS

"They arrived this weekend from eight different decades, 31 states and two foreign countries, gathering at one of the most historic fraternities on the Purdue University campus." So noted the Lafayette Journal and Courier as it covered Delta Delta's 125th Anniversary Celebration weekend held June 9 - 11. This special weekend hosted almost 400 returning alumni who partook in dinners, golf, tours, workshops and the sharing of 125 years of Delta Delta brotherhood.

The big weekend kicked off on Friday with Significant Sigs Bernie Sergesketter, Bruce Harreld, Allen Menke, Chick Weaver, Keith Krach, Greg Harbaugh and Ralph Weiger, conducting an undergraduate workshop. This activity was coordinated by Brad Nihls '99 and gave the undergraduates a chance to interact with these men and learn more about those traits and qualities that build our future leaders.

Friday evening the 125th Anniversary reception and banquet was held at the Purdue Memorial Union. Purdue Athletic Director Morgan Burke joined us for the reception and gave us all a Boilermaker sports update. The banquet served



Many of the almost 400 Sigs who returned to Delta Delta for its 125th Anniversary congregate in front of the chapter house for the Grand Reunion John T. McCutcheon predicted.

as an inspirational and fun evening for the 300 attendees. See article Page 6. The evening concluded with most of the guests reconvening at Harry's for one more story.

Boilermaker Special tours showed off the many changes on campus, and Saturday morning a meeting to discuss taking the Chapter House into the 21st Century was held. A lot of great ideas came from this session attended by 50 to 75 brothers. You'll be hearing more about this in the coming months, as we look to ensure the Chapter's future.

Golf was the main order of business

on Saturday as Delta Delta may have set a record for the number of golfers on both Purdue's Akerman and Kampen courses at one time. With just under 300 golfers, split into groups of six, everyone had a great time chasing that little white ball around. Significant Sigs Hank Stram '48 and Jim Everett '85 joined us and added some spirit and long drives to the days activities.

Golf honors this year were shared with two teams at 14 under par. Jim MacDonald, Mike Spooner, Bob Marks, Gregg Westerbeck, R.L.

See Celebration Page 8



THE SIGMA CHI CREED

I believe in fairness, decency, and good manners. I will endeavor to retain the spirit of youth. I will try to make my college, the Sigma Chi Fraternity, and my own chapter more honored by all men and women and more beloved and honestly respected by our own brothers. I say these words in all sincerity that Sigma Chi has given me favor and distinction: that I will endeavor to so build myself and so conduct myself that I will ever be a credit to our Fraternity.

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Consul's Corner Travis Bonnell '01

Brothers, as I am writing, the 125th anniversary celebration of the Delta Delta Chapter just concluded. The undergrads are still exchanging memories about the weekend and what a great time we all had. I am sure that all of you are doing the same. It was great to see the long legacy of alumni from the Delta Delta chapter still the strongest around. It was a time that no one will ever forget. A special thanks goes to the celebration committee for their fine work and dedication, which made the weekend unforgettable. I would also like to thank all of the Significant Sigs who gathered for the Thursday night festivities and for the Undergrad workshop Friday morning. We can all thank Brad Nihls '99 for bringing the workshop together and making it such a success. Friday night's dinner brought out some of the best in Delta Delta history. It was nice to see many of the same traditions are still intact. Brother Frisch made a very emotional speech in returning a beautiful crest to the house that was lost nearly 40 years ago. Thanks Brother Frisch for returning the crest to its original condition and place of honor.

The undergrads here at 202 Littleton have just completed another successful semester. At this year's Greek Awards Reception Delta Delta's Ryan Gaunt received the Outstanding Leadership Award given to a junior; Andy Wesdorp received the Stephen Beering Outstanding President Award; and Kyle Hudson was recognized as Outstanding Greek Man of the Year. Our grades improved significantly as once again they posted higher than the fraternity average. Grand Prix was another success this

year as well. Jason Bezy '02 drove the Sig cart to an impressive 2nd place finish. Great job cart team!

We are all gearing up for this coming season of college football. We will not only be cheering on our Boilers to make it to Pasadena, but also brother Drew Brees '01 in his quest for the Heisman Trophy. We look forward to welcoming you all back once again on September 23 for Homecoming 2000 while the Boilers battle Minnesota. Rush for the 2004 pledge class will begin immediately upon our return to school in August. Please remember to send your recommendations as early as possible.

I want to thank all of you for your great alumni support. Your support is a direct reflection of the strength of this chapter for the past 125 years. I enjoyed the conversations I had with many of you over the course of the celebration weekend. Whether it was at 202, the golf course, or Harry's, I appreciated all of your input. Thank you for all the advice and suggestions that you have given me throughout my tenure as consul. The different points of view and advice have helped us to maintain our chapter's tremendous legacy. Keep the comments coming. As always, I am proud to be a Sigma Chi.

A Special Thank You To Our 125th Sponsors

Without our sponsors' financial support or those brothers who contributed a little extra we could not have pulled this grand event off. Thanks again for your continued commitment to Delta Delta

The Quest of the Sigma Chi Crest -- A 39 Year Journey

This is a story about a journey. A journey that began 39 years ago, one that has covered 2370 miles by car, truck and air. A journey paved with good intentions. A journey that represented in its own way the ongoing quest of one man to find the White Cross and fulfill a promise he made to the chapter 39 years earlier. So began Nick Fritsch's '64 remarkable story that captured the hearts of the 300 guests at the 125th Anniversary Celebration banquet.

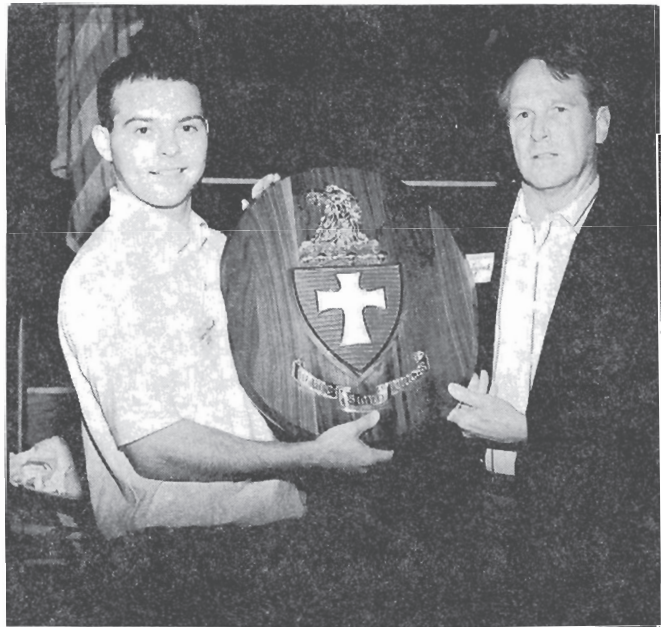
Following the Blue Formal dance in 1960, a fire started in the decorations on the balcony and swept to the "blue sky" adornments above the Great Hall. The Great Hall, Game Room and Library were moderately damaged. Many items of chapter memorabilia were scorched, including the crest of Sigma Chi. As the restoration of the chapter house neared completion, Nick promised chapter advisor, Cordy Hall, that he would repair the crest's broken and blistered wood over the summer of 1961. Summer ended with Nick earning enough money to return to Purdue and the crest untouched. He had realized that he, not only did not have the tools to do a first class job, he did not have the woodworking skills. The summers rolled on, and three weeks after graduation, Nick was on active duty.

Life continued for Nick after the Army – starting a career, wedding, children and more Army in the Reserves. Upon retirement in 1998 and the 125th Anniversary Celebration looming, Nick stated he was "out of excuses". On a Christmas holiday visit to Indianapolis Nick

finally found a lumberyard that could do the necessary millwork. He had them create a new walnut backboard for the crest. Now he had to restore the brass, scroll, Norman Shield and the eagle from 39 years of tarnish, corrosion and rust. Nick spent dozens of hours using sandpaper, crocus cloth and brass refurbisher. At the end of

most days, Nick would have to stop for a day to give his fingertips time to heal. Four coats of white paint, mixed with just the "right" shade of blue, four coats of satin finish applied to the wood base, and very carefully mounting the crest to the base, eventually yielded the first class results that he had envisioned 39 years ago.

At the 125th Anniversary banquet Nick presented the chapter with the



Nick Fritsch '64 (R) presents Travis Bonnell '01 chapter president with the 1960 restored Sigma Chi crest.

refurbished crest. In his comments he related how the journey of the crest reminded him of a quest that he had taken 39 years ago prior to his initiation. As he held the crest high above his head, the applause was thunderous. His commitment as a pledge 39 years earlier had been fulfilled. His journey and quest complete.

Today Nick is retired and lives in Sand Key, Florida.



Notable Sigs in attendance L-R: Greg Harbaugh, Ralph Weiger, Tim Palmer, Bart Burrell, Chick Weaver, Bob Demoss, Dave Schellhase, Allen Menke, Mark Herrmann, Drew Brees and Bernie Sergesketter.





Inspirational, Fun Banquet Highlights Delta Delta Celebration

The 125th Anniversary Celebration "officially" kicked off with a reception and banquet held Friday evening at the Purdue Memorial Union. It was an evening that inspired, honored and poked fun at our Delta Delta days. From the opening invocation given by Father Joe Noonan '85 to the closing songs to get us out of the dining hall, it captured the spirit of 125 years of Delta Delta history and accomplishment.

Keith Krach '79, the 1978-1979 International Balfour winner, served as the evening's master of ceremonies. During the evening we had a chance to hear from Keith as he spoke about the roll Sigma Chi and Delta Delta have played in his life and in his business success. Past Grand Consul Dick Hester spoke about the importance of Sigma Chi today and presented Allen Menke '44 with the Order of Constantine.

Jeff McKean recognized current and former House Corporation members, Chapter Advisors, Consuls and Balfour nominees. A special moment came as Tom Leslie '68 conducted the roll call of Sigs based on their initiation dates. As Tom asked those brothers to sit that had been Sigs less than 10, 20, 25, 35, 45, and 50 years, the applause grew as 14 brothers, who had been Sigs 50 years or more, received a white rose and a standing tribute.

Notable Sigs in attendance were recognized by Keith and asked to come up on the ballroom stage. This group included Significant Sigs Chick Weaver '50, Allen Menke '44, Bernie Sergesketter '58, Ralph Weiger '49, (all former business executives), astronaut

Order of Constantine Bestowed Upon Allen Menke '44

Allen Menke '44 became only the second member of Delta Delta to be honored as a member of Sigma Chi Fraternity's prestigious Order of Constantine. In addition, Brother Menke is the only member of our chapter to receive the Order of Constantine and also have been named a Significant Sig. The Order of Constantine is presented to individuals that have made long standing, continuous, and significant contributions to Sigma Chi. At the 125th Anniversary Celebration banquet past Grand Consul Richard Hester presented Allen with this tribute on behalf of the International Fraternity. Brother Hester noted that Allen's long term service to the Sigma Chi Foundation, where he currently serves as Treasurer and sits on the Board of Governors, and his many other contributions to Sigma Chi, had been done quietly and effectively in "a manner the Seven Founders would have commended." Congratulations Brother Menke!!



Allen Menke ΔΔ '44

Greg Harbaugh '78, and Purdue football great Mark Herrmann '81. Also called upon were former Purdue quarterback and coach Bob DeMoss '50, 1979-1980 International Balfour winner Tim Palmer '80, basketball All American Dave Schellhase '66, former Purdue star receiver Bart Burrell '81 and current Purdue quarterback and Heisman candidate Drew Brees '01. Just as this auspicious group thought their portion of the program was finished, the "weasel" siren sounded and former consul Gavin Philipps '95 raced to the stage to conduct an impromptu fire-drill. Under the friendly grilling of Brother Philipps we learned just how little of Delta Delta's history they recalled. But with the help of the crowd each question was answered as we walked through the history of our chapter. Our notable guests left the stage using the

"chain of brotherhood" and smiling to the applause of all.

The restoration and return of the chapter crest by Nick Fritch '64 (see story Page 3), reminded us that our quest for the White Cross took many forms and was something each of us in our own way would continue to seek throughout our lives. The evening came to a fitting close as Brothers Kurt Vahle '58, Tom Schneider '77, John Pierce '80, and Doug Wilton '63, led us all in stirring renditions of our favorite Sigma Chi songs.

As the banquet ended and the crowd dispersed to Harry's, you could sense the spirit of all 2062 Delta Delta brothers who had contributed past and present to our chapter's storied history. A moment that will be remembered by those present for many years to come.

Alumni Newsnotes . . . Alumni Newsnotes . . . Alumni Newsnotes . . .

Ritchie Appointed To Judgeship

James R. Ritchie '63 was elevated to a seat on the Marin County Superior Court by California Governor Gray Davis last January. Brother Ritchie is a partner in a San Francisco law practice where he specializes in insurance defense and has served as an arbitrator and mediator. A little surprised at the timing of the appointment, Jim stated that he has been working as a civil litigator for a long time and thought it was time to shift gears. Jim currently resides at 175 Sycamore, Mill Valley, CA 94941.

'44 **Herman W. (Bill) Jones** wrote and stated that he has moved to Villa Del Obispo, 32200 Del Obispo, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675 to be closer to his daughter and granddaughters. Originally in the Class of '42 Bill's time at Delta Delta was interrupted by a stint in the Navy during WWII. He was consul of the chapter when the brothers were temporarily moved out of 202 Littleton Street to make room for Army students. Following graduation Bill returned to the Navy for a 27-year career where he commanded fighter squadrons and an Air Wing. He was promoted to Captain, USN, and was

Executive Officer of the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk for two tours in Vietnam. Although retired, Bill serves as President of the Engineering Research Institute, Inc.

'50 **Charles "Chick" Weaver** and wife, Donna, have relocated to 6316 S. Helena St., Spokane, WA 99223. Email: weavermail@uswest.net.

'71 **Kirk Raymond** has accepted a new job assignment in Europe. He now makes his home in Chable de Plachamp - Dessus 16, 1815 Clarens, Switzerland.

'76 **Steve Blickenstaff** is currently the Director of Human Resources for Framatome Technologies. Steve, wife, Jane, and his children call 205 Lee Cir., Lynchburg, VA 24503 home. Email: sblickenstaff@framatech.com.

'77 **Richard D. Carson** can now be found at 7515 E. Washington St., Lot #44, Indianapolis, IN 46219.

'79 **Ken Long** is a Partner and Account Executive with the CSC Consulting Group. Ken and his family reside at 128 Copper Creek, Folsom, CA 95630. Email: klong@csc.com.

'83 **David Steele** and wife, Yang Sook, are the proud parents of a baby boy, Alexander, born May 26. Dave, and his growing family, can be reached at 2050 Vanderbilt Pl., Lawrenceville, GA 30044.

'84 **Todd Hockenmeyer** recently relocated his family to 10936 Hamilton Pass, Fishers, IN 46038. He is now Director of Marketing for Endress + Hauser Instruments. Email: todd.hockenmeyer@us.endress.com.

'98 **Bryan Clones** has moved out west and can now be found at 1801 Norwood Ave., Boulder, CO 80304. All brothers are welcome.

CHAPTER ETERNAL

All Honor To Their Names . .

'36 **Walter Abbott**, La Jolla, CA, 7/16/99

'36 **Edmund J. Skoronski**, South Holland, IL, 12/22/96.

'40 **John "Moose" Krause**, Inverness, FL, 8/26/96.

'49 **James A. Rodger, Jr.**, St. Louis, MO, 1/23/00.

'69 **William R. Smoot III**, Maysville, KY, 2000

YOUR CLASSMATES WANT NEWS FROM YOU! Please use this form to pass along current news about yourself, your family, or other chapter members you have seen or heard from. Feel free to include a photo. What's News? Engagements, Weddings, Births, Deaths, New Jobs, New Homes, Promotions, Fraternity Functions.

NAME: _____ **ClassYear** _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

Please return to: Signa Chi, c/o Chapter Editor, 202 Littleton Street, West Lafayette, IN 47906.

Celebration ... continued

Berry and Dave Burt made up one squad, and Scott Ainsworth, Scott Durham, Greg Klug, Jim Everett and Steve Jones comprised the other winning team. Second place honors were also shared at 13 under with the team of Don Fesko, Josh Brown, Wes Dillingham, Dave Cera and Brad Hunter, and the crew of Rick Taylor, Brian Griffiths, Joe Wasilewski, Craig Johnson, Guenter Haines and Eric Morgan. The pledge class that took best participation honors with 18 returning members was the Class of '80.

The Golf Awards steak dinner held on the front lawn of the chapter house under two large tents went late into the night. It was a perfect setting as brothers gathered in small groups to reminisce, catch up on current activities, and discuss future get-togethers.

Sunday morning found several pledge classes milling around in the dining room over coffee and doughnuts and saying their good byes. Many of which pledged to return

next year for the 11th Annual Alumni Golf Outing.

We would be remiss if we did not recognize those brothers who gave a tremendous amount of their time over the past 12 months to organize and host this major event. The 125th Anniversary Committee was comprised of Jeff McKean, Phil Steele, Tom Leslie, Jim Trachtman, Lee Sterry, Corby Thompson, Dave Poelstra, John Eddy, Chris Corrigan, Dave Westerbeck, Jim MacDonald, Gary Thoe, Aaron Thomas, Tony D'Ermo, Jim Andrew, George Owen, George Bender, Brad Nihls, Tim Maloney, Ray Osborne, Travis Bonnell, Trent McFarland, and Graydon Philipps. The committee also got extra help from Jay Smith, Eric Morgan, Scott Kaminski, and Jim Vrugink.

Doug Hull '78 sent an email stating, *"I just wanted to thank you all for your hard work on the 125th celebration. I had a great time and the camaraderie was fantastic. Friday evening was a very inspirational event. Again, on behalf of*

the Class of '78, thanks for a job well done." Bernie Sergesketter '58 also sent a note that read, *"Congratulations to your committee for bringing about a historical event in an exceptional way. Thanks to all of you for all of the work and long hours to make the 125th weekend happen. It was an inspirational and a renewing experience."* Jim Latham '63 summed up his class's feelings by saying *"All of my brothers from the Class of '63 had a great time and I want you to know how much we appreciated all the effort the organizing committee dedicated to making it a success. The golf, the campus tour on the Boilermaker Special, the chow, and especially the brotherhood were terrific. Thanks to you we all have yet another wonderful memory of Delta Delta."*

In return the Committee would like to thank the almost 400 brothers who took time away from work and family, and who traveled great distances, to be a part of one of Delta Delta's most shining and memorable moments.

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