

Alpha Alumni News

**Michael Nolte, Publications Editor
c/o Beta Sigma Psi Fraternity
706 West Ohio Street
Urbana, IL 61801**

Non-profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 114
Champaign, IL 61820

Address Service Requested





Alpha Alumni News

Winter 2008

Finding Time...Changing Perspectives
Mike Nolte

As I sit down to write my article for this newsletter, I have already missed my deadline by two weeks. Those of you that know me will testify that I am one of those individuals constantly running behind, that constantly has too many things on a to-do list. As I have grown and matured, I have tried to tell myself that I need to carefully evaluate those things that I take upon myself, and only tackle those that I feel are important to me.

One major piece of advice that change managers in business will give is that it is acceptable to say 'NO' from time to time. I know that I have trouble with this concept, and I am sure that many of you do as well. However, between the last newsletter and this one, my wife and I had a beautiful little daughter, and as many of you have experienced, the birth of a child will help anyone put things into perspective. Catching five minutes of the Illinois Basketball highlights replaces watching the entire game, stealing a five minute nap sometimes replaces most of a nights sleep, and having five minutes of time to donate toward those causes that you feel are truly important may replace the numerous hours that you once spent. Sometimes, five minutes is even hard to carve out of a schedule. For those of you that are fortunate enough to be able to listen to KFUE, you should be familiar with Pastor Nicely's segment "Do you have a minute", where a bible or life lesson is taught in only moments between regularly scheduled programming. When you think about this concept, it is amazing what you can do with your spare moments.

With my new priorities, one activity that I will continue to make time for is Beta Sigma Psi. I don't plan to make as many trips to Urbana as I used to, and I don't expect to be able to dedicate as much time as I once did, but Beta Sigma Psi holds such a special place in my heart, that I will continue to support the Fraternity in every capacity that I can. It seems that I have changed my perspective on what I choose to spend time doing, but not on finding time for the Fraternity...often, just as we change personal perspectives when life events happen, we must change Fraternity perspectives as society evolves. Past President John Schweizer has drafted an excellent article, found later in the newsletter, dealing with this very idea, that I encourage you to read. It may not be what we want to hear, but we are going to have to change in order to keep Beta Sigma Psi relevant to today's college men.

After you read this article and John's piece later in the newsletter, I encourage you to take a couple moments and reflect on two things concerning the Fraternity: do you have five minutes that you can donate to the future of Beta Sigma Psi, and do you feel that there are things that should change with the Fraternity to make it more appealing and more relevant to today's college men.

In the next few years, we are going to be faced with several large improvement projects on the house that all of us love at 706 West Ohio Street. Many of us have called this building home at some point in our lives, and if we want future Alpha Chapter members to do the same, we are going to have to make an attempt at repair and modernization. The only way that we are going to be able to tackle the installation of a new sprinkler, the repair of the roof, and refurbishment of a portion of the common areas is with your help.

There is much to do, and it is not all going to go smoothly, but we have a great infusion of energetic, new members to the Board of Directors, we have a dedicated group of Active members, and we have you – the Alumni. I hope that all of you will take some time and see how you can gather just a few moments and contribute to the future of the Fraternity. "Do YOU have a minute?"

Alumni Chapter Officers

alpha.alumni.betasigmapsi.org

<p>President Michael Nolte 2012 Sugarloaf Drive Dupo, IL 62239 (618) 974.9375 noltemw@yahoo.com</p>	<p>2007-2009</p>	<p>Director Steve Eggerding 2421 S. 11th Ave Broadview, IL 60153 (708) 343-8520</p>	<p>2007-2009</p>
<p>Vice President Brent Gieseke 2238 Central St #2 Evanston, IL 60201 (815) 238-7564 bgieseke@gmail.com</p>	<p>2007-2009</p>	<p>Director Peter Kirby 509 S. Broad St. Carlinville, IL 62626 (217) 854-3946 kirbypc@frontiernet.net</p>	<p>2006-2008</p>
<p>Secretary Treasurer Greg Treichler 1804 Rita Avenue St. Charles, IL 60174 (630) 762-8578 gtreichler@financialfederal.com</p>	<p>2006-2008</p>	<p>Recruitment Advisor Jason Braun 2238 Central Street #2 Evanston, IL 60201 (847) 525-2766 jasonbraun1@gmail.com</p>	<p>2006-2008</p>
<p>Collegiate Group Advisor John Garlich 706 West Ohio Street Urbana, IL 61801 (217) 714-6686 jgarlich@hotmail.com</p>	<p>2006-2008</p>	<p>Director Dale Durfey 6541 Terrace Downers Grove, IL 60516 (630) 960-3352 ddurfey@oak-brook.org</p>	<p>2007-2009</p>
<p>Publications Editor Aaron F. Dubas 3339 Caramont Ave Cincinnati, OH 45209 (513) 508-3463 afdubas@hotmail.com</p>	<p>2007-2009</p>	<p>Director Tim Norsen 6519 Palo Verde Dr. Rockford, IL 61114 (815) 282-9426 illinifantn@illinoisalumni.org</p>	<p>2006-2008</p>
		<p>Past President John Schweizer 159 N 2540 E Rd Rankin, IL 60960 (217) 397-2314 JohnWS53@aol.com</p>	

Active Chapter Officers

www.uiuc.edu/ro/betasigs

President	Matt Johnson
1 st Vice President.....	Dan Heinzl
Rush Chairman.....	Joel Dickhut
Treasurer	Alex Johnson
House Manager	Karl Rittmeyer
Social Chairmen	Ross Clark

Active Chapter

706 W. Ohio
 Urbana, IL 61801
 (217) 344-0676

Beta Sigma Psi National Fraternity

c/o LCMS Southern Illinois Dist.
 2408 Lebanon Avenue
 Belleville, IL 62221
 (618) 235-0014

Homecoming 2008

It's never too early to plan your trip to next year's Homecoming. Join us October 10th through 12th, 2008 to celebrate brotherhood and certain Illini victory against the **Golden Gophers of Minnesota!**

Homecoming accommodations will be at the Eastland Suites Hotel and Conference Center, 1907 N. Cunningham, in Urbana. 30 rooms have been reserved at \$125/night with a 2 night minimum. Room reservations must be made by September 11, 2008. As usual, each alum must call and reserve their own room. The banquet/dance will also be held there.

*Pricing and order forms for Homecoming 2008
Will be announced in the next newsletter!*

Friday, October 10th, 2008

Hospitality Night

Saturday, October 11th, 2008

Alumni Business Meeting

Pre-Game Tailgate Outside Memorial Stadium

Fighting ILLINI vs. Minnesota

Post-Game Tailgate Outside Memorial Stadium

Dinner/Dance

2008 Membership Dues Form

Complete the attached form and submit checks payable to

Greg Treichler
1804 Rita Avenue
St. Charles, IL 60174

Name :	_____
2008 Dues (\$15)	\$ _____
Lifetime Member (\$150)	\$ _____
Chief Illini Print (\$15)	\$ _____

Distinguished Alumnus

Do you know an Alumnus who deserves recognition for their support of the fraternity? If so, contact Steve Eggerding for information about how to nominate that person. Applications will be taken from now until the Fall Executive Board Meeting for the award at Homecoming 2008. As of press time, the Board of Directors have not received any nominations for the 2008 award. We know that there are many deserving Alumni out there, we just need you to nominate them to us.

Steve Eggerding, 2421 S. 11th Ave, Broadview, IL 60153 (708) 343-8520

Time To Reconsider The 3 S's?

It's been a while since I have written an article for the newsletter, but I had an idea about some things that needed to be said about the state of affairs at Alpha Chapter. In particular about the struggles that we have had with rush for some time now. I ran my ideas past a few members at homecoming and was encouraged to pursue my thoughts for an article. Well, I remember how difficult it was when I was the Alumni President to write a coherent article and it isn't any easier now. I struggled for a couple of months with the central idea but had not found a way to bring it all together. Then, sitting in church with my father the Sunday after thanksgiving I had one of those inspirational moments.

"Are you going to heaven?" That was a tough question, one that I wasn't sure I was ready to answer. Where was I going to get the confidence that I could answer positively? Malachi 3:13-18 was the text for the sermon.

13"Your words have been hard against me, says the Lord. But you say, 'How have we spoken against you?' 14 You have said, 'It is vain to serve God. What is the profit of our keeping his charge or walking as in mourning before the Lord of hosts? 15 And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape.' "

16 Then those who feared the Lord spoke with one another. The Lord paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the Lord and esteemed his name. 17"They shall be mine, says the Lord of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. 18 Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him."

The second moment of inspiration happened last Thursday (December 20th) as I sat in a conference with about 300 other crop advisors. The speaker's words were meaningless at that moment as I found the fleeting piece of inspiration I had been searching for the last two months to complete the circle.

"Time to reconsider the 3 S's?"

As important as scholastic, spiritual and social activities are as a foundation of Beta Sigma Psi they are not bringing results when it comes to recruiting new members for the fraternity. For the most part Alpha Chapter's scholastic record has been excellent in the past and even better more recently. The GPA has been good, a challenge at the big U to be sure, but the fraternities' responsibility in this area is restricted to providing a good atmosphere that is conducive to study and supporting the undergraduates with encouragement and in some cases financial support with scholarships from the education foundation and our own alumni scholarship.

I am certain that we often take the spiritual aspect of the fraternity for granted. It isn't so much that being Lutheran is important as much as being a Christian and having those values as a common basis for understanding and cooperation. *"I will spare them as a man spares his son"* We don't question the motivation, we accept.

Having social activities in today's PC surroundings at the university isn't like it was in the 70's when I was an undergraduate. I was looking at a house picture the other day from 1973, there was nearly an equal number of little sisters and fraternity brothers, and those were the days that there were 40 members living in the house. 80 Beta Sigs, guys and girls, made for a very dynamic social scene in the fraternity house. Today the little sister groups have been outlawed and finding activities that are economical and engaging is sometimes difficult.

So what of the 3 S's?

When we recruit young men for the fraternity we have always had great success when we can get in front of the parents. Many of us have had the experience of a home visit and came away very happy with the story we were able to tell about the fraternity. But times are changing; the requirements to get into the University of Illinois are phenomenal to say the least. There isn't an allowance for low grades, borderline ACT/ SAT scores or inactivity during high school years. The pressure to perform in high school is great, and the pressure to perform does not diminish after the student is accepted for admission to the university. Here in recruiting the new "S" is **SUCCESS**. The parents of our young recruit want to know that the fraternity will help their son be successful. The house GPA is the benchmark, but the diversity of experience and the academic environment of the fraternity house and its members are the story that needs to be told so these parents can have the confidence that their son can be **SUCCESSFUL** as a University of Illinois fraternity member.

We read all too often about some tragedy that befell a fraternity member or group of members as a result of a drunken party, an automobile accident or fire at a fraternity house. Even when we think it isn't possible a tragedy like the one at West Virginia shocks us into the reality that it is a dangerous world out there. So what are the parents of our prize recruit looking for? The second "S" of recruiting, **SECURITY**. Mom and Dad want to know that their son will be safe from natural disasters, structural disasters and even protected to some extent from the cruel world that would take their son from them. There are several facets to this "S", but a few of them involve the safety of the physical plant itself. One of our up coming issues is the installation of a sprinkler system, this one isn't going to be cheap, but it will be a requirement in 5 years. Part of security is involving each and every member as brothers to have the other's back, to look out for them and have a system in place that does just that.

I have sit in on some rush sessions and came away embarrassed by the way the fraternity was presented and how the rush dissertation was presented. I have said before and often repeated that our active members don't know what to say or how to say it. Without a doubt it requires a certain amount of enthusiasm and knowledge of the subject. But the final "S" of the recruiting S's is **SINCERETY**. *"Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked,"* Without a doubt all facets of the fraternity are important, none will stand alone, but if the presenter isn't sincere about his message he will not accomplish his goals.

So there you have it, the 3 S's. **SUCCESS, SECURITY and SINCERETY**. With those three parts to the recruiting story I am certain that Beta Sigma Psi can go forward into the 21st century with its head held high and looking forward to many years of brotherhood.

The speaker's topic at the CCA conference? Global Warming and Green House Gases, but I'll save that for another day.

John W. Schweizer
Past President

2008 Fighting Illini Football Wrap-Up

Illinois football's surprising season and Rose Bowl appearance ended with a thud. The USC Trojans, ranked #1 to start the season and two touchdown favorites over the Illini, covered the spread before the television announcers could finish introducing the starting lineups. The Illini defense settled down and grounded the Trojans offense for the better part of the first half, but the offense was never able to get on track. USC stifled the vaunted Illinois running attack, and quarterback Juice Williams wasn't able to get into any sort of a passing rhythm for the entire first half.

In the second half, Rashard Mendenhall took Illinois's second play from scrimmage 79 yards for a touchdown, cutting the deficit to 21-10. Mendenhall struck again on Illinois's next drive with a 55 yard run. But Illinois couldn't catch a break, as receiver Jacob Willis fumbled the ball inside the USC 10 yard line. The Trojans recovered for a touchback. Illinois turned the ball over four times, and the Trojans capitalized to score touchdowns on each of those four turnovers. The Trojans went on to win 49-17.

The future, however, is bright for Illinois football. Even with the likely loss of Mendenhall to the NFL, the offense will return Juice Williams and Big Ten Freshman of the Year Aurelius Benn. Cornerback Vontae Davis and the physically gifted Martez Wilson will return on the defensive side of the ball. And Ron Zook is on track to bring in his third consecutive top 25 recruiting class. This year's overachieving Illini surprised everyone with a BCS birth. Next year's team will be expected to compete for the Big Ten title and a BCS bowl victory.

2008 Alpha Alumni Scholarship

Scholarship applications are being accepted currently for the \$1000 Alpha Alumni Scholarship. If you know of a Lutheran male enrolling at the University of Illinois next fall, send a note to bsp_scholarship@yahoo.com to receive an application. Applications must be post marked by **Feb 25, 2008**.

Scholarship interviews for all finalists will occur at the Chapter House March 29 and 30. If you would like to attend to meet perspective brothers and their parents, please send a note to Mike Nolte. All brothers are welcome to assist this weekend with recruitment.

GOOD & WELFARE!

Ben & Bridgette Wells celebrated the birth of their daughter Alexis Kay on 6/1/2007

Matt & Melissa Niermann celebrated the birth of their daughter Rachel Grace on 6/7/2007

Alan & Sarah Schweizer celebrated the birth of their daughter Samantha Jean on 6/18/2007

Mike & Jennifer Nolte celebrated the birth of their daughter Corinne Abigail on 1/18/2008

Missing Alumni?

Our goal is to have the most complete list of Alumni. If you know the whereabouts of these missing Alumni, please contact the Board of Directors.

- Terry O'Brien*
- Richard Olson*
- William Paxson*
- Orville Penrod*
- Jim Peuster*
- Ken Pinkerton*
- Prof. Charles Poneleit*
- Kent Rader*
- Robert Reiersen*
- Mark Rescino*
- Joel Rett*
- Chester Roe*
- Wilbert Rueter*
- Kyle Russell*
- Mark Sandager*
- Clarence Scarbough*
- Rick Schmidt*
- Ralf Schnieder*
- Don Schoenbeck*
- Tobin Search*
- Tim Slazinik*
- Franklin Sluppy*
- Dr. David Smith*
- Kevin Smith*
- Evan Sommerfield*
- Craig Sorensen*
- Jeff Soufal*

**BETA SIGMA PSI – ALPHA CHAPTER
TO THE NEXT 50 YEARS**

Enclosed is my donation to the **NEXT 50** of \$_____

- \$1000 contributors will receive dinner/dance and game tickets for 2
- \$500 contributors will receive choice of tickets for 2
- \$1000 pledges to the house renovation (4 annual payments of \$250)
dinner/dance tickets for 2

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

ZIP _____ Phone _____

Graduation year _____

Send checks to:

Greg Treichler		SPGH
1804 Rita Avenue	or to:	PO Box 2765
St. Charles, IL 60174		Champaign, IL 61825-2765

*Please note: Beta Sigma Psi with your check memo when sending checks to SPGH.

The NEXT 50 campaign has been very successful to date with over \$11,000 contributed by the alumni membership. Additional contributions of \$14,000 are needed to reach our campaign goal of \$25,000. Your contribution to the campaign insures the immediate future of Beta Sigma Psi as we embark on a new beginning for the active chapter at the University of Illinois.

A special thank you to all who have contributed to date, your giving is certainly appreciated.

Over the next several months many projects are going to confront Alpha Chapter and the Chapter House. The main project that will be necessary is the installation of a sprinkler system to bring the house in compliance with an ordinance passed by the Urbana City Council. Your donations are encouraged to ensure a safe and appealing house for the Active Chapter.

Got Stories?

The Alpha Alumni News is always looking for stories and/or good and welfare. If you have anything to share please send an email to AFDUBAS@HOTMAIL.COM

Are You Moving?

Please update your mailing address with Aaron Dubas. Each returned newsletter costs about \$1. Every little bit helps.

Do You Know Someone Coming to the U of I?

If you know someone who will be attending the University of Illinois, please contact Michael Nolte. I will make sure the information is passed along to the rush chairmen.