

alpha alumni newsletter

winter 2009

happy new year!

A note from the Publications Editor...

Starting with this issue, the Winter Alpha Alumni Newsletter will be only available only via email. The Alumni Board will continue to print and mail our Spring and Summer issues. This change saves the Alumni Association over \$400 and gets the newsletter into your hands faster. Look for a new newsletter format in both print and electronic form in the Spring issue!

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

...it's the most wonderful time of the year
there'll be parties for hosting
marshmallows for toasting
and caroling out in the snow...

This year, I have become one of those individuals that many despise. My wife and I finished our Christmas shopping, complete with stocking stuffers and gift-wrapping, nearly two months before Christmas. However, while we were in a store at the beginning of November, we noticed Christmas music, including the carol above, playing from the store's sound system. My wife and I were both surprised by this fact, as it was a full four weeks until Thanksgiving. On the contrary, visit the stores less than one week after December 25th, and I will wager that you won't find a trace of Christmas. Now, I understand that this is marketing, but it does make one wonder if we have our priorities properly placed.

As Lutherans, our celebration should begin on Christmas Day. A fact that many of us seem to forget; it is not about us, or what we do, it is about Christ. Everything else is (should be) simply our gratitude for this wonderful gift. Often, we are too busy with our selfish personal interests to realize the importance of the blessings that Christ has bestowed upon us.

Clearly, there is THE gift of our eternal salvation, but do you ever think about all the other blessings in your life? More importantly, do you show your thankfulness for those blessings?

Was your experience with Beta Sigma Psi a blessing? It certainly was for me, in more ways than I can list in a one-page article. I encourage you to take some time during this holiday season and attempt to answer the questions above, and consider if the gratitude you have for Beta Sigma Psi warrants you expressing your thankfulness. As I said to those present at the Homecoming banquet, the way you express your appreciation is different for everyone. I simply encourage you to lend your talents to OUR fraternity.

I wish each one of you a wonderful holiday season. I hope that you have a chance to sing Christmas carols in your neighborhood, I hope that you have a chance to eat an entire plate of Christmas cookies, I hope that you have a chance to spend quality time with your family, and I hope that you keep perspective on the true gift of the season. This truly is The Most Wonderful Time of the Year.

I am sure that the holiday season will be filled with plenty of the things that are represented in the carol above. However, prefer a portion from one of my favorite hymns of the season, *Now Sing We, Now Rejoice* -- Come from on high to me, I cannot rise to Thee Cheer my wearied spirit, O pure and holy child.

God's Blessings to You and Your Family this Holiday Season,
Michael Nolte

Homecoming Update

Homecoming 2008 was a success (except for the football game). All 50 of our football tickets were sold and 67 people attended the dinner-dance event on Saturday evening. A BIG THANK YOU to Mark Keel for providing the beverages for the hospitality get-togethers and to Brian Bunte for putting on another fabulous tailgate.

Homecoming 2009 is set for October 9-11, 2009. Let's hope our football team plays better when Michigan State comes to town than we saw in 2008. We again are at the Eastland Suites in Urbana. More information will be coming in future Newsletters.

Looking To Give Your Time?

- Do you have a few hours each month to give back to Beta Sigma Psi?
- Do you have a passion for engaging and guiding college men?
- Would you like to help steer the direction of Alpha Chapter in these important times?

If you answered YES to any of these questions, then consider serving on the Alpha Alumni Board. The Board is always looking for Brothers to participate in the work, guidance and governance of Alpha Chapter.

Time commitments vary per position and time of year, but board members can often fulfill their responsibilities in only **5-10 hours a month**.

A board member has the opportunity to lead projects in a variety of areas important to the Chapter:

- Recruitment
- \$1000 Alumni Undergraduate Scholarship
- Building & Services
- Fundraising
- Anything Else He Has Passion to Work & Improve

Contact Mike Nolte or Brent Gieseke with any questions or interest about serving on the Alumni Board.

Chief Prints 4 Sale

Beautiful hand-drawn prints of Chief Illiniwek remain for sale at the low price of \$25 each plus \$10 shipping & handling. An Alpha Chapter Brother created these beautiful drawings during his time as an Active and left the drawings to the Alumni Association as his gift back to the Chapter. Celebrate your Illini pride by displaying one of these wonderful pieces of art in your home or office.

Shipping & handling can be combined for multiple orders or waived if you are able to pick-up your order in person in the greater Central Illinois area.

Contact John W. Schweizer for details and/or to make a purchase.

Alumni Chapter Officers

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