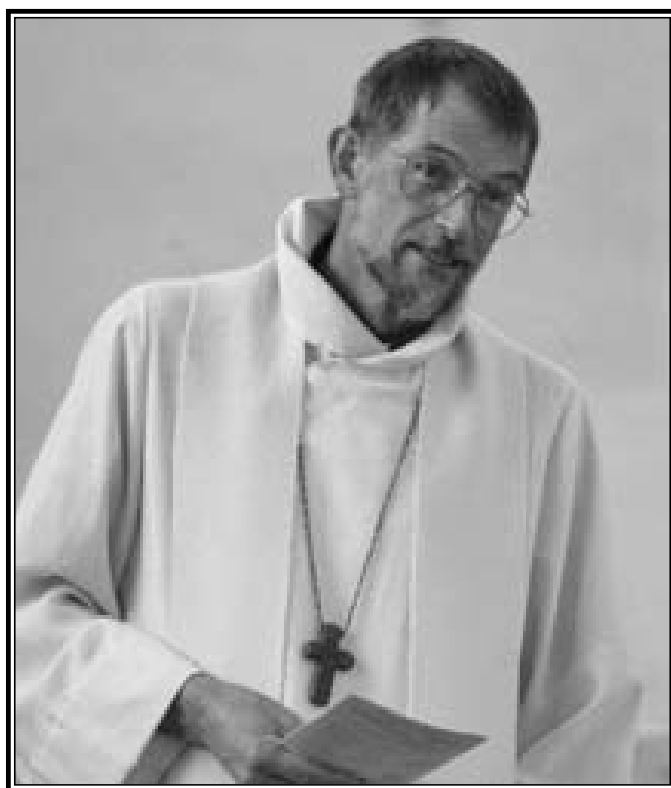


The Gold Rose

of Beta Sigma Psi National Lutheran Fraternity



A Life of Purpose



***Beta Sigma Psi
Bids Farewell to
Rev. Larry Meyer,
1946-2005***

Also in this issue:

Active Members Build Leadership Skills at Academy

Epsilon Alumnus Works to Sort National Archives

New Standards of Excellence Set in Chapter Awards

2005 Alumni Donor List

And more...

Volume 51, Issue 1 Fall 2005



The Gold Rose of Beta Sigma Psi

Volume 51, Issue 1

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President's Corner

Chad Pfister, 27th National President

The past 12 months have been great for Beta Sig - so great it is hard to know where to begin. We had good growth in our numbers for Fall semester 2004 and even better growth for Fall semester 2005. And the fraternity-wide GPA for Spring Semester 2005 was above 3.0. This accomplishment is even more meaningful given the state of our academic affairs just 12 short months ago.

We also just completed by far one of the best events the National Fraternity has ever sponsored - our Leadership Academy. This year's Academy held in August was very different than in years past. Instead of focusing on specific offices within the chapter, we focused on the elements of what it means to be a successful leader. It turned out to be a hit with all those in attendance. We each interacted on a more personal level with the future leaders of Beta Sigma Psi and learned from each other. I look forward to this event in the future, as I'm sure many others do, too.

We also now have a full-time paid Leadership Director, Kevin Stinn from Epsilon Chapter. Kevin's talents and experience as a leader will help make our fraternity and our members the best they can be as he travels from chapter to chapter over the course of the next two years. Kevin is a graduate of Iowa State University and has served in many chap-

ter offices including recruitment and president. Kevin was also the recipient of the 2004 - 2005 Erck Award.

Kevin's priorities for the 2005 - 2006 school year are chapter operations, member education and growth. These priorities will be accomplished by being on the

front-line on an almost constant basis. Kevin will be spending most of his time on the road working directly with our chapters and colonies to make our groups the best they can be. He will be playing an integral role in the programming events sponsored by the National Fraternity, in particular, the Membership

Education Forum and National Convention.

Another great addition is our Recruitment Forum held September 17 at Eta Chapter at the University of Missouri-Rolla. This is the first time since I joined Beta Sig that the national fraternity is bringing together all recruitment chairmen in the Fall semester. This is a great opportunity for those interested in the recruitment efforts of our chapters to meet

and share information. It also is an opportunity for the national fraternity to motivate recruitment chairmen earlier in the year, and to find out what our chapters need that the national

fraternity can provide.

In addition to the Recruitment Forum, we will also be holding the 10th

annual Membership Education Forum at Epsilon Chapter. Finally, the 2006 National Convention will be held in Louisville, Ken., August 3-6. I look forward to all of these events and encourage all members to attend.

Another achievement is the Alumni Involvement in Recruitment Program (AIRP). This program was motivated by my article in the Spring 2005 issue of the Gold Rose asking alumni to step up to the plate in working with our chapters. AIRP is being administered by the national fraternity through funding from the Housing Foundation. AIRP money will be available to alumni chapters to use in their efforts to increase Alumni involvement in the Active Chapter, in particular the recruitment process. I am excited about AIRP, and on behalf of all Beta Sigs, I thank the Housing Foundation for their generosity.

I would also like to thank the Housing Foundation and the Educational Foundation in helping to provide the funds necessary to have a paid-staff person. Without these two groups, the efforts of the national fraternity would be severely limited. The brothers who volunteer to serve on these boards are some of the most famous Beta Sigs known to us. Their dedication to Beta Sigma Psi is too great to put to words. Regardless, I thank them deeply on behalf of all Beta Sigs for everything that they have done and do for Beta Sigma Psi.

While things are good in Beta Sig, we cannot rest on our laurels. We continue to need the time, money and devotion of our alumni. I strongly encourage all members to contact their active and alum-

see Growth on page 13



"While things are good in Beta Sig, we cannot rest on our laurels. We continue to need the time, money and devotion of our alumni."

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Long-time Delta Chapter Pastoral Advisor, Beta Sig Supporter Dies From Cancer

by *Tanner Ehmke*,
Publications Editor

Though he is gone, he will forever be remembered as the Delta pastoral adviser who taught the true ideals of Beta Sigma Psi.

On April 29, Rev. Larry Meyer, Lutheran campus minister at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and honorary Beta Sig, died in his sleep after battling esophageal cancer for 2½ years.

As the pastoral adviser for Delta Chapter and Colony at UNL, Rev. Meyer stood as a guiding light to the principles of a life rooted in Christ. In his 16 years of service at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Lutheran Student Center, Rev. Meyer was a staunch supporter of the fraternity and played a key role in its re-establishment at UNL in 2003 after the chapter had closed in 1994.

His dedication to the fraternity and its ideals was constant throughout his life, even when he was faced with monumental trials in his personal life.

Beta Sigs recall that even while he suffered the pains of cancer, he remained committed as ever for the students who gathered together and would later form



Rev. Meyer delivers a sermon over Martin Luther's grave.

Delta Colony, re-established Oct. 31, 2004.

Lee Anderbery, president of the Lincoln Alumni, said his leadership and wisdom was always a valued asset to the fraternity.

"He was one of those really charismatic guys. In 1994 when we closed the chapter house, which was one of the darkest days in Delta's history, there were about a dozen alums there to sort things out, but he was just as committed as anyone else. He was there in the good and bad times," Anderbery said.

After Delta's doors closed in 1994, there was tremendous pressure to start efforts to bring the chapter back. Rev. Meyer, though, insisted that it was not the right time. But by Fall 2002, he thought the time had come, that UNL was ready again for Beta Sig.

"He came forward and said, 'I think it's time to re-colonize Beta Sig,'" Anderbery said.

Work began slowly with the Lutheran Student Center serving as home ground - the location alumni often would meet to discuss and plan Delta's recolonization, and the place where Bible studies took place with students interested in being part of Delta's rebirth.

During that first year to resurrect Delta, Rev. Meyer learned the painful news he had cancer. Weak from chemotherapy treatments, he still maintained a presence at meetings with Beta Sig alumni regardless of the time or place. He also maintained his dedication to the students. Attendance at the Bible studies for the future Delta Colony continued to grow.

But by January 2004, the cancer returned, this time with the tumor putting pressure on the nerves in his spine, making it painful for him even to sit in a chair. Regardless, Rev. Meyer continued to meet with the future colony, gathering them together for Bible studies in the basement of the Lutheran Student Center,



Rev. Larry Meyer, left, with former UNL Lutheran Student Center Pastors.

and meeting with alumni in his office.

"He wanted to be there so badly," Anderbery said. "He really believed in Beta Sig."

A Life Rooted In Christ

Rev. Christian Meier, Delta alumnus who worked at the Student Center with Rev. Meyer, says it's hard to describe Rev. Meyer and not be cliché, for a simple reason - he was the embodiment of a teacher who imbued in students Christ's teachings. Teaching students and always being there for them was a job he took very seriously, almost to a fault, Rev. Meier said.

"It was a calling rather than an occupation for him," he said.

Every year, he met with 300 to 400 new students at UNL. Sometimes even more. The week before final exams, he opened the student center 24 hours a day so students could study.

His dedication ultimately earned him national recognition. In 1998, he was the recipient of the National Campus Pastors' Distinguished Service Award, and twice was recipient of the UNL Certificate of Recognition for Contributions to Students. The Delta alumni also now have a scholarship named after him - the Larry Meyer Scholarship, which is an annual award for the outstanding Delta active. And in August at the Beta Sigma Psi 2005 Leadership Academy in Kansas City, Rev. Meyer was posthumously awarded the Luther Award for his devotion and com-

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mitment as pastoral advisor to Delta Chapter and Colony.

Standing as testimony to his work, Lutheran campus ministries at UNL had grown to be one of the most successful in the country. He also served as president of the Association of Campus Religious Workers.

His greatest impact, though, was with students. Rev. Meyer's service to Christ and his undying commitment to leading them down Christ's path touched many. For Christian Meier, it was an influence that survived even beyond his years as a student at UNL.

Sitting on his desk is a picture of Rev. Meyer at a Beta Sig wedding he presided over in 1997. Even today, Meier counts him as one of his mentors - and a key influence on one of his greatest life decisions. Meier now serves as a Lutheran pastor in Nisswa, Minn.

"Larry was certainly one of those people very instrumental in my decision," he recalls. "Like a lot of things in life, he had sort of a quiet presence. He had that way with a lot of people. He was able to do that just by getting them to talk rather than doing all the talking."

Neal Thomsen (Delta), advisor to Delta Colony, was a sophomore at UNL when Rev. Meyer arrived in 1989. Almost



An oil painting of Rev. Meyer that hangs in the Lutheran Student Center at UNL.

immediately he was involved with the fraternity, he said. It was not hard for students to take a liking to him. His dynamic presence and ability to involve anyone in Bible studies endeared him to students.

"He made the sermons relevant to what was going on in your life, almost tai-

lored to yourself. He sounded like he was talking directly to you. He just had that persona," Thomsen said.

He consulted students on everything ranging from

their faith to girlfriend issues. Beta Sig alumni even sought out his council and confided in him.

His love for helping students was seen beyond Beta Sig and the Lutheran Student Center, encompassing the

Christian sorority Phi Beta Chi, and the Greek system as a whole.

"He understood the importance of community," Rev Meier said of Rev. Meyer's fondness of fraternal organizations. "Of course he was aware of some of the challenges fraternities and sororities presented, but he certainly understood the good we were doing at Beta Sig and what other Greek organizations were doing."

In a short time, his relationship with the members of Delta Chapter grew beyond him serving as their pastoral adviser, but to being a friend and eventually a brother. In 1992, the members of Delta Chapter voted to bestow on Rev. Meyer honorary membership in the fraternity. It was almost an epiphany for him, Thomsen said.

"He was moved. He really took it to heart as far as becoming a member," he said. "He was very proud of that."

To the end, his membership in the Beta Sig brotherhood was something Rev. Meyer took to heart.

Not long before his passing, Thomsen wrote to Rev. Meyer. This time instead of seeking his spiritual guidance, it was Thomsen sending uplifting words of encouragement. Rev. Meyer sent back a heartfelt reply, words Thomsen fondly reflects on today:

"Beta Sigma Psi was one of those 'un-thought-of-blessings' I encountered when I moved to Lincoln. Because I never had any of the Greek lifestyle in my underclass studies, I really never had any exposure to the benefits nor the comradeship until I came to Lincoln as Pastoral advisor in 1989. What a wonderful gift!"

Per Aspera Ad Astra, Rev. Meyer. You will be missed.

"Beta Sigma Psi was one of those 'un-thought-of-blessings' I encountered when I moved to Lincoln. What a wonderful gift!"
- Rev. Larry Meyer



Rev. Meyer with students on a Christmas Break ski trip in Colorado, December 2003

Epsilon Alumnus Works To Sort National Archives

by Tanner Ehmke,
Publications Editor

Stashed away in a basement in O'Fallon, Ill., sits more than 80 years of the Fraternity's history.

For over five years, Rod Thompson (Epsilon) has managed and organized Beta Sigma Psi's national archives from the den in his basement. The archives include a variety of artifacts, ranging from the fraternity's original charter at the University of Illinois to hard-to-find chapter memorabilia.

The records include the minutes from every National Council meeting since 1925, a beanie worn by a freshman at Alpha chapter, speakers' notes from some of the past conventions, a time capsule from a 1970s national convention, every pledge manual published (minus the first edition, which he still is in search of), every edition of *The Gold Rose* dating back to the 1950s, and countless other documents and valued pieces of the fraternity's history collected through the

years by various alumni. Many of the documents are already showing their age.

"For some stuff, I feel I should be wearing white gloves. Some of these records wouldn't hold up to a number of people touching the items. They're pretty fragile," Thompson said. "But if alums call me when they are in the St. Louis area, I'll show them some really neat materials." He also takes some materials "on the road," for example Zeta Chapter's 50th anniversary and the celebration in October at Alpha for their 50th anniversary of re-establishing the chapter.

Prior to being accumulated in his basement, the archives were held mostly in the hands of various notable alumni: Dave Jackson (Zeta), Bill Bunte (Alpha) and Brent Seifert (Beta). The fraternity owes a great debt of gratitude to past executive directors who managed the collection, like Tom Schlange (Delta) and Del Lienemann, Sr. (Delta). Other notable alumni have assisted in various capacities, including John Hingst (Beta), Larry Edwards (Zeta), and Del Karneier

(Alpha). Kirk Meyer (Alpha) and Matt Kreps (Zeta) helped Thompson recover the records from the various storage sites.

There are still small pockets of collections in the hands of alumni that Thompson hopes to eventually include in the national archives. In his search, he continually asks families of deceased alumni for anything related to the fraternity they can donate to the archives.

"It's kind of delicate in a way to ask them, but it's important for the fraternity to reclaim as much as we can," he said. A way for alumni to add their own collections to the National Fraternity's archives, he said, is to include a provision in their last will and testament for the fraternity so their family is aware of the bequest.

Thanks to the devotion and stewardship of alumni across the nation, the collection continues to grow. The work of sorting out the most valuable pieces of history from the growing body of artifacts, though, is not really work for him.

"It's truly a labor of love to go through all these records," Thompson said, who completed a 20-year career in the military as a Commander in the Navy. "I've always had an interest in history - I minored in history in college. For me, it's like going through your grandfather's trunk in the attic. You're reliving history. That's why they saved all this material for us. Someone wanted us to enjoy this treasure of information."

His search for the remnants of the fraternity's history is unrelenting. The national archive has always had a better collection of the entire fraternity's history than the collective amount held at the individual chapters. In his visits to the chapters across the Midwest, Thompson has eagerly explored through each of the chapter's collections. The national archives, he said, has virtually everything the chapters have, and more.

There are still a few select items Thompson is searching for that will add immense value to the archives. Topping the list is a taped interview with Bill Welge, one of the founding fathers of the fraternity. John Hingst and Larry Edwards spent an entire weekend talking with Welge about the fraternity's history. The tapes, though, have yet to be located.

From the National Archives: A Look at Our Beginnings

Below is a segment of the Initiation Address to the Concordia Club on March 18, 1921 - four years prior to the chartering of Beta Sigma Psi. The author of this address was not annotated on the copy retained in the National Archives. At some later date the author may be identified based on a handwritten note on the document.

"About a year ago there was no Concordia. She had a humble beginning, indeed, and that we are now about to celebrate her first birthday, is due to the untiring efforts of a mere handful of staunch workers, among whom our Rev. Pastor Stiegemeyer stands head and shoulder above all. This small group formulated a constitution, they shaped each article and each section carefully, chipping and hammering into shape each rock, as it were. Then they anchored them securely in the bed-rock of pure Lutheranism and built a foundation upon which Concordia will and must stand as long as there is a Concordia.

"Soon new members were to be added to the structure. Here, at an early period, the rocky base was severely shaken, and for a time it seemed as though the boulders would be severed, but it was merely a threat, and the foundation survived the test.

"Concordians, just a word of warning here. Do not be too confident and think that the period of test is past. No, Concordia is still in a process of development. Here tonight we are raising the walls of our structure by adding this group to our membership. The walls, as well as their base, needs to be strong in order to resist further wind and weather. In order to gain strength, it is first necessary that these new members be firmly joined to our structure. They must understand the why and the wherefore of our policies and they should know above all in what respects we differ from the prevailing Greek letter fraternity.

"Concordia is not a fraternity, but in spite of this fact we bear a more intimate relation toward each other than is found in fraternities generally, because we are bound not only by material ties but by spiritual bonds as well."

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He also is searching for more artifacts from chapters that have closed, more items from the pre-Beta Sig days when the fraternity was organized as the Concordia Club, and more memorabilia and photographs with documentation.

But through the years, some of the fraternity's most valuable artifacts or documents have vanished. The greatest loss is the original Alpha Chapter memorabilia. Tom Schlange and other alumni have been in search of for years. During the Great Depression after the chapter house at the University of Illinois was closed and sold at auction, the members were not allowed back inside to retrieve the remainder of the fraternity's belongings. The artifacts to this day have never resurfaced.

"We lost a lot of the original stuff when the house was sold," he said. "But we still have all the records and minutes of the national conventions from day one."

What worries Thompson now is not so much what past Beta Sigs have or have not recorded or collected, but the changing forms of how Beta Sigs communicate today. The "electronification" of communication, such as e-mails and instant messaging, mean fewer and fewer documents to collect. And what is written is not always coherent thought. E-mails are more like little snippets or fragments of conversations often omitting detail and context.

As time goes on, it will be increasingly difficult to collect information, he said. Even when the entire collection is archived electronically, it is easier to touch and look at paper documents. Having a complete and accurate chronicle of the fraternity pays dividends.

"When you read the fraternity's history, you can observe the time when a chapter got in trouble. Then later on, see when the chapter came back to life," he said, adding that having the fraternity's history in focus gives it a reference point to know where it has been and to help it develop a better idea of where it needs to go.

The gradual disappearance of solid documentation ultimately means less that future generations can learn from.

For that reason, Thompson makes extra effort to document fraternity activities and to be thorough and accurate. During his service on the National Board

of Directors, he meticulously recorded the meetings of the National Council.

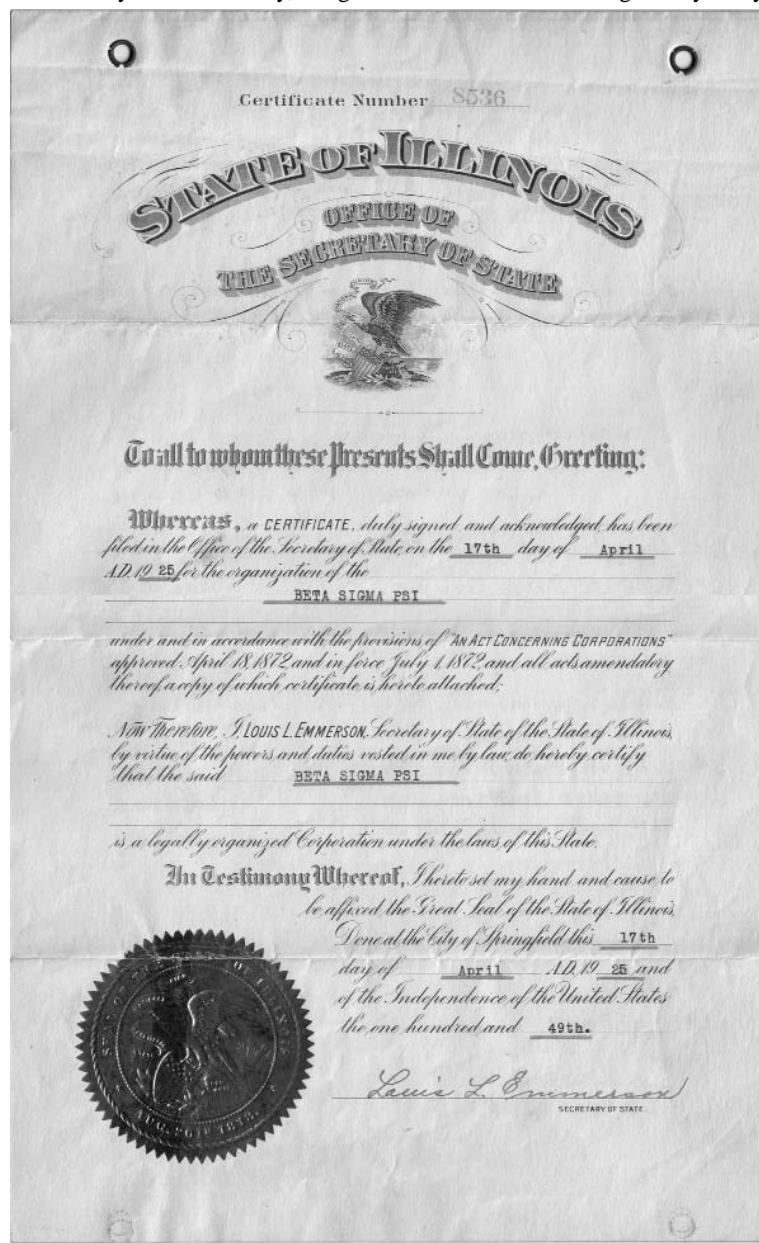
"Summarizing doesn't really serve the fraternity 50 years from now. A future historian wasn't there and memories fade overtime. That's why I typed between 10 to 15 pages of minutes at the National Council meetings," he said.

Though he is no longer on the board of directors, his ambition for the archives has not diminished. For the fraternity's 100th anniversary in 2025, Thompson hopes to have ready a book encompassing the entire history of the fraternity, bring-

ing Beta Sigma Psi into context with a documentary like other national fraternities have done.

He also dreams of a permanent home for the archives in a national office building complete with office space, a conference center, an auditorium and a place to properly display the fraternity's most treasured artifacts to be shared with all Beta Sigs.

"We must keep in mind the fraternity continues to make progress and evolve," he said. "We can't dwell on the archives. We need to be making history today."



One of the most treasured of items in the archives - the fraternity's charter.

Beta Sigs Volunteer for Community Service, Build Leadership Skills At Annual Academy

The attendees of this year's Leadership Academy are calling it the greatest Beta Sig experience they have ever had.

Twenty-four active members gathered together at Atonement Lutheran Church in Overland Park, Kan., Aug. 12-14 to build leadership skills and learn how to better their own chapters. This year's format - with specific attention brought to problem solving and communication - was a major success with those in attendance.

National President Chad Pfister and newly appointed Leadership Director Kevin Stinn facilitated the programming with exercises in teamwork and group discussions.

The numerous exercises, which started off with a simple challenge of passing a basketball around the group in as little time as possible, revealed that even in uncomplicated tasks, problems will arise and must be addressed.

As more balls were added, challenges arose and yet were met - much in the same way active chapters operate. Comparisons were made to the fraternity as a whole, such as chapters struggling with membership.

Adding another ball was compared to adding another problem or another outside perspective that members must take into consideration at their own chapters.

And when one person dropped the ball, other people were needed to keep the process intact.

While many other exercises throughout the weekend taught leadership, teamwork and problem-solving skills, the detective exercise garnered the most interest.

Each attendee was given a separate piece of information about a murder mystery. While everyone in the group did not know what information each other had, they were able to solve the mystery by working together.

Ray Holman, sophomore from Psi Chapter at Concordia College in Bronxville, NY, said the Leadership Academy taught everyone about themselves and how to improve and progress.

"I learned a lot about addressing weakness of chapters," he said. "Lots of times people don't want to address weakness until it gets too big. Apathy is a problem."

Throughout the course of the discussions and activities, attendees refocused their values of the fraternity, learned how to address unforeseen problems that may arise on their campus, developed ideas for programming and member education, and learned the balance of the three S's - Spiritual, Scholastic and Social.

The timing of the leadership academy was key, said Chris Ristich, president of



Past National President Chad Winterhof stands in a cardboard box, sorting miscellaneous food items for the community service project part of the annual Leadership Academy.

Beta Chapter at Purdue University.

The skills learned and the ideas that were exchanged refreshed the active members and prepared them for the Fall semester, he said.

The group also learned the importance of community service by volunteering Saturday morning at Harvesters, which provides food to families in need. The attendees sorted more than six tons of food, equating to nearly 10,000 meals.

Kevin Stinn, who was also awarded the Erck Award at the Awards Banquet held in conjunction with the Leadership Academy, said the weekend spent with chapter leaders helped him see the potential of the fraternity, and that volunteering at Harvesters taught a valuable lesson about giving back to the community, and how to work and do it well.

"I never realized how many good strong leaders we have in the fraternity," he said. "The seeds are already in place for initiating positive change. Hopefully this weekend will encourage that."



The attendees of the 2005 Leadership Academy pose outside of Harvesters for a group photo after sorting six tons of food for needy families.

Defining a Position...

Without trying to sound too much like Lou Gehrig, I feel like the luckiest man in the world. Having the chance to work for Beta Sigma Psi represents a culmination of four years of Beta Sigma Psi giving so much to me. I feel fortunate to have the opportunity to work with active members, alumni boards, and national officers to make our fraternity better and stronger than it is today.

I have recently graduated with distinction from Iowa State University with a degree in Political Science. As a member of Epsilon Chapter, I have served as President, 1st Vice President, Treasurer, Alumni Relations Chair, Greek Week Chair, Philanthropy Chair, Summer House Manager, and a summer recruitment assistant. Additionally, I am a graduate of UIFI (Undergraduate Interfraternity Institute) and have served in numerous capacities at Memorial Lutheran Church in Ames. With my collegiate experience behind me, my next task is to try to inspire actives and alumni to step up their efforts a notch. If one takes the title of my position literally, my job is to direct leaders and leadership. Unfortunately, this task sounds awfully abstract.

Leaders, I have always believed, must be doers. Leadership by example is the easiest way to show others what should and must be done in any given situation. If people do what they say they will do, this leaves the greatest impression. Being a leader doesn't even require a title; it merely requires an individual who is able to affect positive change. As a statement by the UCLA Higher Education Research Institute notes, "leadership involves collaborative relationships that lead to collective action grounded in the shared values of people who work together to affect positive change." My primary goal as a leadership director is to get all Beta Sigs, grounded in our Lutheran traditions, to work together to make our fraternity better.

Equally as important as individual action, leaders must be able to listen to others. As Sam Rayburn said, "you can-

not be a leader and ask other people to follow you, unless you know how to follow, too." I want to work with our active

*by Kevin Stinn,
Leadership Director*

and alumni executive boards, as well as our individual members, to communicate with each other and share ideas. Sometimes we tend to keep doing the same things over and over again because we've always done things that way. If we listen to each other, we might find new ideas that could make our fraternity even better. I hope to develop more leaders within our fraternity by fostering more open discussions among our members and coming up with ways to improve Beta Sigma Psi.

I see my position as Leadership Director as being Beta Sigma Psi's ultimate servant. I will do whatever I am asked or told to do. My position will take me on the road more often than not, so I will be fortunate enough to meet with hundreds of Beta Sigs and see what they have to offer. If you have an idea that could make our fraternity better, I'm willing to listen; I am a mere phone call or e-mail away. While I won't be able to do all the hard work myself, my job is to set the initial spark and let others carry the torch. If we all recognize our goal is the life rooted with Christ, as our mission statement says, we must act together and inspire each other to do everything we can to achieve that goal.



Newly appointed Leadership Director Kevin Stinn leads a discussion about leadership roles in active chapters at the 2005 Leadership Academy.

Louisville, Ken., Site of 2006 National Convention

Louisville, Ken., home of the Kentucky Derby, Louisville Slugger Baseball Bats and birthplace of the great Muhammad Ali, will be the host city for the 2006 Beta Sigma Psi National Convention from Aug. 3-6.

Louisville's Grand Hotel, the historic Seelbach Hilton located in the heart of downtown Louisville, will be the host hotel for the 2006 National Convention.

The convention will feature the always popular Beta Sig Golf Outing, educational programming, the National Council meeting, entertainment, socializing, and the Annual Awards Banquet. The convention is a great opportunity for collegiate and alumni members to interact with one another while celebrating the accomplishments of Beta Sigma Psi.

The registration fee for the National Convention has not been set, but will be between \$125 - \$150, covering two meals on Saturday, entrance to all official Beta Sig receptions, entry to a popular Louisville landmark, and a memento to remember your attendance at the 2006 National Convention. For collegiate members, the registration fee will also cover three nights at the host hotel.

The convention will also have an official Spouse's Day Out, which will be on Saturday. The spouse's will be having their own meal function on Saturday, take a guided tour of the historic Seelbach, and other socializing events throughout the day.

Hotel reservations can be made by contacting the Seelbach Hilton at 502-585-3200. The group rate is \$109/night plus tax. Mention Beta Sigma Psi when making your reservation to get the group rate, which expires July 3, 2006.

More information will be released in upcoming issues of the Gold Rose and Beta Sigma Psi's electronic monthly newsletter Marty's Boys. To subscribe to Marty's Boys, send an e-mail to president@betasigmapsi.org. Also a special website for the convention is being created which can be found at <http://convention.betasigmapsi.org>.

National Awards Recognize Service, Dedication of Members and Advisors

New Standards of Excellence Set in Chapter Awards

by Matt Kreps,
Awards Committee Chairman

The objective of the National Awards program is to encourage excellence in chapter and colony management and to recognize the achievements of our members. The awards committee this year received several excellent submissions, even though not every chapter submitted applications.

In considering the awards, the committee was pleased to see chapters setting aggressive goals, designing programs to attempt to meet these goals, and then setting about the necessary work to be successful. While not every goal was achieved, there was evidence of the commitment, effort and resolve to build stronger chapters.

Beta, Epsilon, Iota and Delta Colony submitted applications. I would also like to thank the alumni who served on the committee to evaluate these submissions, which is no small task considering the time needed to review and comment on each application individually.

Members of the committee were Rod Thompson, an experienced national officer and past chairman of the awards committee, Jim Shildmyer who has been heavily involved with both chapter and national alumni efforts and Clif Ascher who continues to give his time and considerable expertise to the recruitment role of the National Fraternity.

It is also important to thank the Educational Foundation, which continues to generously support the Awards process and provide a significant portion of the necessary financial backing. The alumni who contribute to the foundation as well

as those who serve on its board are seeking the best in our fraternity, and they are committed to this process.

The Luther Award

The Luther Award is presented to persons devoting service to the Lutheran Church. This prestigious award is presented to any pastor, church official or other distinguished member of the Lutheran community for devoted service to the Lutheran Church and spiritual leadership provided to Beta Sigma Psi. This year we recognized two long-time supporters of our chapters.

The first award is presented to Pastor Fritz Wehrenberg who has served Iowa State University and Epsilon Chapter for the past five years. Pastor Wehrenberg conducts compelling worship services at University Lutheran Church, but goes beyond the traditional Sunday service in creating opportunities for college students to practice their faith. He also hosts meals at his house Sunday evenings followed by an hour of devotions, he leads Wednesday evening chapel services each week, and

hosts theology on tap Monday nights. Friday mornings Pastor hosts morning fellowship at a campus café and helps at concessions work at ISu football games to raise money for mission projects.

He also ministers to youth through high school and junior high programs and developed a state-wide leadership program for high school students in the Lutheran church. He also developed and lead Lutheran 101 for Epsilon Chapter, an hour a week for a month exploring the basics of Lutheran ideals and brining a more detailed understanding of what it means to be Lutheran for the men at Epsilon Chapter. The chapter described his as a "spiritual advisor and friend, if not a role model and hero" to the men in the chapter.

This year we will also recognize the Rev. Larry Meyer, long-time pastoral advisor and honorary member of Delta

Chapter. Rev. Meyer spent 16 years at the UNL Lutheran Student Center making significant contributions to the men of Delta Chapter and ardently supporting the rebuilding with Delta colony. He strongly encouraged weekly spiritual building within the chapter through worship and study, led weekly Bible studies, conducted chapel. In the early 1990s when Delta Chapter was open he was a regular face in the house visiting with members just to keep up. He was recognized as an honorary in 1992.

Sadly, Rev. Meyer passed away this spring prior to the awards committee meeting, but he certainly epitomized the spirit of the Luther Award. The Award will be presented to his wife Carol, who was also a well known face at the chapter. Additionally, Delta Alumni are sponsoring a scholarship in his honor for intern pastors at the Student Center who are following in his footsteps.

The Governor Norbert T. Tiemann Award

The Governor Norbert T. Tiemann Award is presented to alumni who have distinguished themselves in their chosen profession over a lifetime of achievement. The award is given for "a lifetime of exceptional accomplishment in professional endeavors."

This year two Tiemann Awards will be presented to candidates who have enjoyed significant and visible success in their chosen fields.

Melvin L. Callabresi, Zeta, was activated in 1954. Melvin's professional accomplishments are many as a registered architect in multiple states, and was the primary influence in the design of the traveling crane that made the St. Louis Gateway arch possible.

Michael W. Welge, Alpha, was activated in 1959 and is the CFO of Gilster Mary-Lee, and is chairman, president and CFO of Chester Bancorp, the holding company for Chester National Bank and Chester National Bank of Missouri. Michael is also the son of founding father Bill Welge.



The Erck Award

The Erck Award is presented each year to the outstanding active member of Beta Sigma Psi. The Erck Award is the committee members' favorite award to review, as we have the opportunity to observe the many accomplishments from all the nominees and the emotional impact of what it means to be a member of Beta Sigma Psi. The award includes the following wording "A distinguished leader in church, fraternity, campus and community affairs, demonstrated in assuming leadership, sharing responsibilities, teaching, supporting, caring, and giving of himself while achieving academic excellence."

The Erck Award requires a lot of chapter membership involvement - there is a high standard of participation in the chapter, the campus, the church and academics. Campus activities and honors are expected on the applications in addition to an active role in chapter/colony leadership positions. Letters of recommendation are also a necessary element. The candidates are often not strangers as they will typically have been involved in past national gatherings.

Kevin Stinn of Epsilon Chapter is this year's Erck Award recipient. Kevin graduated from Iowa State University with honors with a degree in Political Science and has served Epsilon Chapter in many capacities. He has served as house president, first vice president and treasurer, among numerous other offices. He has volunteered much of his



Kevin Stinn (Epsilon) is this year's recipient of the Erck Award for the outstanding active in the national fraternity.

time at Memorial Lutheran Church in Ames, Iowa. He also is a graduate of the Undergraduate Interfraternity Institute and the Beta Sigma Psi 2005 Leadership Academy in Kansas City.

Alumni Volunteer Service Award

This award recognizes alumni who have made significant contributions to the fraternity through their chapter or the national program. As such, they are nominated by the chapters.

Paul Himmelsbach, Iota

Paul has served as alumni recruitment advisor instituting a new letter campaign and regularly visiting with the members at Iota on Monday evening to help plan, execute and support their needs in the rush program. This constant support and encouragement helped Iota rebuild their recruitment program and begin addressing their need to strengthen the chapter's membership roster. The chapter has been put back on track for solid Fall classes and is ready to begin the process of rebuilding the membership roles through the education and activation of large new classes each year.

Phil Bertels, Iota

Phil stepped in and took over the Alumni Chapter treasury. This essential function of the alumni chapter needed significant attention to clear the books, get both receivable and payable accounts back to current and put the books back on track. New bank accounts, bill collection systems and attention to detail have restored order to the system and helped the alumni and active chapters get a better handle on where they stand and



Chris Ristich (Beta) accepts the Hingst Award on behalf of Beta Chapter at Purdue University for achievement in academic excellence.

how they can support each other. Phil has also pitched in to support the rush effort, a critical part of Iota's future as bringing the books into order highlighted the need for increased membership to make the chapter work financially. Phil instituted a tracking program the chapter uses to make sure every prospect receives the letters they drafted with help from Paul Himmelsbach in a timely manner. The system also tracks their interaction with these prospects and helps identify those most interested in joining.

Lee Anderbery, Delta

Lee has been a fixture representing Delta Alumni and played a significant part in organization for the new colony. For the past 10 years Lee has been one of several key alumni pushing Delta forward toward rebuilding a chapter at UNL. He has been a regular at alumni events, organizing many of them, and pitched in with ideas and help when needed to get Delta Colony up and running. Lee has also been a key player in setting up a scholarship for intern pastors at the Lutheran Student Center in honor of long-time Delta pastoral advisor and honorary member Rev. Larry Meyer.

Jarod Carl, Epsilon

Jarod played a key role as alumni advisor helping Epsilon build a strong and successful recruitment program based on the National Recruitment Strategy. Jarod had served as recruitment chair of Epsilon signing 22 new members in his term - a

strong record. Using his experience to help the rush program proved to be a helpful combination in putting together a rush program that can be repeated every year. With his assistance, the chapter compiled a strong list of referrals from Lutheran Churches, referenced the names against the list of rush names from IFC for GPA and began a process of calling potential members with strong grades. He made time to visit the chapter in person on a regular basis to check up on progress, offer advice and ideas from his experience and make sure he maintained a solid working relationship with the rush chairs. The evidence of his efforts is in Epsilon's recruitment program, which once again built a large incoming class for Fall 2006, and the program is ready to run again for the next group of guys.

The Hingst Award

The Hingst Award is presented annually to the active chapter or colony that exhibits the top scholastic achievement in the National Fraternity. This year the committee was particularly pleased to receive applications from three chapters, all with very strong GPAs in the 3.1 to 3.2 range and ranking near the top of the IFC lists for the campus. The committee was

also pleased to see programs that went beyond grades and incorporated chapter education for new members and used opportunities to bring speakers into the chapter on topics relevant to fraternity men today. The chapters also incorporated religious education into these programs.

Finally and very noteworthy, chapters were using a system by which all members of the house participate in study tables regardless of their grades.

This reinforces the community aspect of this award as the entire chapter is working together for its benefit as well as helps keep the chapter's academic edge strong. This year's Hingst Award was presented to Beta Chapter who demonstrated excellence in all of these areas.

The Edwards Award

The Edwards Award is given annually to the active chapter exhibiting the best overall management. The Edwards Award includes several supporting items such as the completed Right On Target material, including advisor's signatures, Chapter or colony budgets for the Fall and Spring semesters, an income statement and expense statement along with comparisons to the budget, copies of the chapter newsletters, copies of goal statements,

and an executive summary provided by each of the Presidents serving during the year outlining the significant accomplishments during the school year during their term of office as well as challenges the chapter/colony faced and how these situations were managed. This year the deciding factor in the decision was a strong financial management program coupled with substantial success in education and recruitment along with attention to the many other details in running a chapter effectively. The committee believed this chapter's submission as well as its ongoing success demonstrate that its members are running the chapter well and in a way that makes Beta Sig a truly desirable choice for new members.

The Edwards Award was

presented to Epsilon Chapter.

The Welge Award

The Welge Award is presented annually to the active chapter or colony deemed to have the best recruitment program. This year there was a very strong program submitted where the results spoke for themselves.

The chapter is operating at top capacity, consistently seeking aggressive numbers in its fall classes and activating most of the men it signs – these are the best indications of an effective recruitment program coupled with a successful living program for incoming members.

The chapter's success was further exemplified by its awards applications in many areas, demonstrating the strength of a values directed recruitment program seeking to retain new members. The Welge Award was presented to Epsilon Chapter.

The Baehr Award

The Baehr Award is given annually to the active chapter/colony producing and displaying the best scrapbook. The scrapbook is examined by the Awards Committee to determine if it represents the best of the chapter, is an effective rush tool for viewing by parents and prospective members and can be viewed by alumni when they visit the chapter/colony. Additionally, the scrapbook should demonstrate Beta Sig activities, values and the brotherhood experience. This year the Baehr Award was presented to Epsilon Chapter, who moved much of the printed material from an excellent permanent scrapbook, the key requirement of the award, to a DVD for use in recruitment and outreach efforts.

The Founders Cup

The Founders' Cup is presented annually to the active chapter/colony deemed to have the best member education program including scholarship, religious, leadership, personal and social skill development programs. These opportunities to learn must be directed to both active and associate members alike, which adds to the educational value of chapter life. In short, this is in recognition of creating a program that exemplifies the ideals of our fraternity through chapter

see Awards on page 13



The Founders Cup, awarded to the chapter with the best member education program, returns this year back to Epsilon Chapter. Chapter President Brandon Carr, left, accepts the award.

www.betasigmapsi.org

Active Chapters Achieve Top Honors For Academics

The active chapters of Beta Sigma Psi made an outstanding performance scholastically last Spring semester, rounding out the year with an average grade point average over 3.0.

The official GPA average for the national fraternity is 3.17. This GPA is based on the previous semesters grades from all of the active chapters of the fraternity. Only two of the nine houses that did not achieve a 3.0 were just short of achieving it. All other houses earned a 3.0 or higher.

Highlighting the list of Beta Sig Chapters achieving academic excellence was Eta Chapter at the University of Missouri-Rolla, Beta Chapter at Purdue University, and Iota Chapter at the University of Missouri.

In keeping with tradition, Eta Chapter finished first on campus for the third semester in a row, and Iota Chapter came in first on campus with an impressive GPA of 3.116. Beta Chapter ranked number two on campus out of 41 fraternities, topped only by the Evans Scholars, a scholarship organization consisting of both men and women.

The associate member classes at both Beta and Iota also were ranked at the top of their universities. Iota's class came achieved a 3.533 GPA, and Beta's associate members ranked number-one with a 3.6 GPA, which speaks for the superior quality of both chapter's associate member programs and the scholastic achievement of the associates.

Congratulations on a fabulous academic year!



National Fraternity Participates in Effort to Pass Legislation

The National Fraternity is participating in a Grassroots Letter Writing Campaign to members of Congress to assist in the passage of the Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act. CHIA as it has come to be known in fraternity circles would allow existing 501(c)(3) organizations, of which the Educational Foundation is classified as, to make grants to organizations which own collegiate housing for the purpose of making general physical improvements to the structure. Currently, funds from 501(c)(3) organizations can only be used to make improvements to areas which are used for educational purposes.

We are asking our members to send letters to their respective congressman and senators asking them to sponsor and support the Collegiate Housing Infrastructure Act. The letters have already been drafted, and so all it takes is adding your name and university to the letter before it can be sent.

More information about CHIA, the Letter Writing Campaign, and sample letters can be found by going to <http://www.betasigmapsi.org/congress>. If you have any questions, please contact National President Chad Pfister.

Awards continued from p. 12

education for all members.

The awards committee was impressed by the applications for their diversity and focus on education for all members of the chapter. The ultimate winner stood out because of strong all-chapter attendance records at these events, whether elective or required, as well as a good program to quickly and effectively educate their new members about both life as a Beta Sig and the commitment necessary to develop good study skills for success in their academics.

Several religious education initiatives were also undertaken with excellent support from the pastoral advisor and the membership. The Founders Cup went to Epsilon Chapter.

Growth continued from p. 3

members to contact their active and alumni chapters to find out what they can do to help to make their respective chapters better. It is with the support of ALL alumni that Beta Sigma Psi can make great strides into the future.

If you are interested in working with the National Fraternity on large-scale programs, I am always looking for brothers who are willing to devote their time. Over the past few months several alumni and active members have been working on redeveloping our Vision for the Future. However, the only way that our vision can be achieved is with the increase of alumni involvement in the activities of the National Fraternity. In particular, the National Fraternity is looking for brothers who are experienced in the marketing and advertising field as we work to improve the recruitment materials that are available to our chapters and colonies. Please contact me if you are interested in working with the National Fraternity in creating and designing such materials.

Some might say that I've overused this verse in the past, but to me it is such a powerful verse. "Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. If you sow to your own flesh; you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest-time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith."

We have already seen the benefits of members adopting this philosophy, but just imagine if we all adopted this philosophy. For if we trust in the Lord, he will provide to us. Just as our motto says, Per Aspera Ad Astra, though the road may be tough the prize is just that much more meaningful.

Alumni Gifts Continue to Fund Opportunities and Growth

by Art Giesler,
National Treasurer

On April 17, 1925, the members of the Concordia Club at University of Illinois formed and incorporated Beta Sigma Psi. This was the beginning of your fraternity that has attained 80 years of existence. Beta Sigma Psi has led the way for Lutheran men to find a home away from home when they go to college.

We've grown and survived thanks to the hard work of our members. Highlights of our 80-year history began when Del Lienemann from Delta Chapter rose to the challenge during World War II. Beta Sigma Psi dwindled to two chapters and fourteen active members alerting Del to intercede. Our highest honor, the Lienemann Award, was named to honor the 22 years he served Beta Sigma Psi.

In 1952, John Hingst from Beta Chapter stepped forward and served for 14 years as National President.

In 1965 Beta Sigma Psi hired its first paid employee, Dick Weiss of Epsilon

Chapter. When Tom Schlange of Delta Chapter was Executive Director in the 1980's, the Education Foundation was formed with the efforts from fellow alumni Steve Panhorst of Eta Chapter and Keith Dierberg of Iota. The Housing Foundation was formed in 1969 to provide an asset base for housing loans. The Education and Housing foundations are key sources of funding for our programs.

During 1992-96, Beta Sigma Psi contracted with another fraternity to provide membership services.

While we had access to consultants and other services, it was not a good fit for us. The lowest point in this time was the closing of Delta Chapter in 1995. But now, Delta Colony is growing and will soon be reestablished as a chapter.

In 1996 Craig Varner of Iota moved the fraternity to Columbia, and with dedicated volunteers from the fraternity, Beta Sigma Psi has grown and prospered.

The point of the short history is this: Today, we must continue to work hard, and remain determined to make your

Fraternity the best it can be.

For 80 years members have supported a variety of programs and services designed to protect and pass on Beta Sigma Psi to future generations.

During the past year, I have met with current active members. These interactions have led me to appreciate what the alumni members of our fraternity did when I was an active. A primary factor in the success of your fraternity is the commitment of the alumni members.

Last year the fraternity had a full-time director for half the school year. This year the three boards (Education, Housing and National) have hired a full-time leadership director and a part time executive director to keep our mission headed in a positive direction.

Your contribution will support work for the education of future members, create a home away from home and preserve our heritage. If the growth and nurturing of Beta Sigma Psi is important to you, please support your alumni chapter and the fraternity with a gift for future generations.

Increased support planned by Educational Foundation

After 5 years at the helm for a second time, Keith Dierberg has stepped down from chairmanship of the Beta Sigma Psi Educational Foundation. Changes and increased demands with his job, including a relocation to the Chicago area, prompted Keith release the reigns again. Keith had previously served as the chairman during its early years and was instrumental in creating the annual phonathon, building the foundation's capabilities to what it is today. Many thanks to Keith for his leadership of the foundation through the years.

Past National President Kirk Meyer has agreed to succeed Keith as the foundation chairman. He plans to increase the foundation's activity and involvement, plus continue to grow the foundation's assets and financial support to chapters, members, and the National Fraternity.

Annually, the Educational Foundation provides about \$8,000 to fund various National Programs, such as the Leadership Academy and the Membership Education forum. Additionally, the

Foundation provides \$10-15,000 in scholarships to members at a National level. The Foundation also provides partial funding of the *Gold Rose* and fraternity employees' salaries. Grants are also given to chapters for purchasing educationally related equipment and materials, such as computers, library or computer rooms, and educational programming. Approximately \$50,000 is raised each year through annual fundraising effort. A sizeable portion of each year's donations are endowed, to grow the foundation's assets to the point of utilizing interest to provide funding and lessen the need for annual donations.

We are pleased that we have the highest per alumnus donation average of national fraternities. We are grateful for our many repeat donors, and would like to increase that number. Be ready for our undergraduates to give you a call in November. Or, feel free to send a check to the Educational Foundation at the National Office with a note as to your chapter and initiation year. Donations of

\$100 or more can be endowed to any of these subfunds: Chapters – Alpha, Beta, Delta, Epsilon, Zeta, Eta, Iota, Psi, and Alpha-Alpha; National Office Operations; Scholarships and Grants; Ethical Leadership Education; Timothy Kettler Memorial Leadership Award; William Welge Scholarship Fund; Seminary Scholarships; National Expansion/Recruitment.

Last year was the first time the phonathon was taken "on the road" to Epsilon Chapter. Thanks to the generosity of Sprint (who is the cellular phone vendor for the company for which board member Roger Plackemeier works) the past two years, we have utilized wireless phones.

In the next few months, the Foundation plans to announce a new campaign to significantly grow our endowed assets. Watch for information about the foundation's upcoming 25th anniversary, and ways in which you may be able to personally endow certain programs for the future.

The **Beta Sigma Psi Educational Foundation** would like to sincerely thank all of our donors. *Your gifts enabled the sponsorship of numerous scholarships and other educational programs throughout the year.* The following is a list of our donors during the Educational Foundation's 2005 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005).

A
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Illinois
'25

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\$500+

Concordia Club
\$250-\$499

Wittenberg Club
\$100-\$249

Patron
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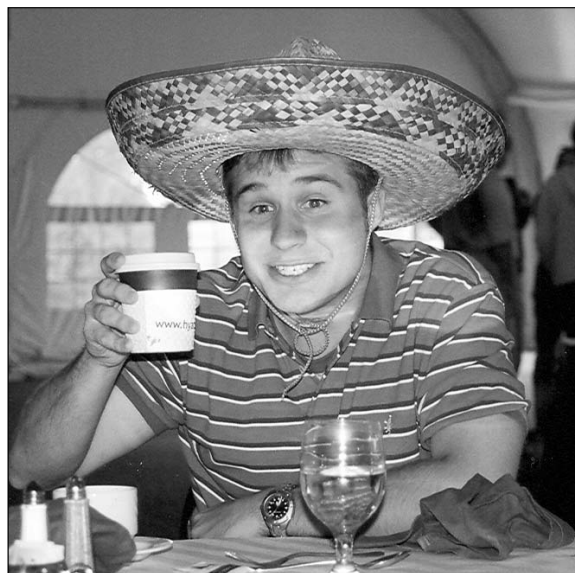
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