



# SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF GREEK HOUSING

## NEWSLETTER

*Volume 11, March, 2004*

### News from the SPGH Board Meetings

The SPGH Board held elections in November as required by the by-laws and elected the following members and officers for the following year:

- Karen Lang-Kummer.....President
- Rod Reid.....Vice-President
- Duane Frichtl.....Treasurer
- John Seiler.....Secretary

#### **Directors**

- Stasz Gorski
- David Kelton
- Carol Miles and
- Ellen Swain

In March, at the Board meeting, the members will be setting up the budget for the fiscal year beginning in May. In that regard, we appreciate the prompt response from so many of our organizational members in the payment of dues for 2004. The dues notices were sent out in February to the most current addresses we have for each house corporation president.

Thank you to those of you who do keep us posted on the current addresses of your corporation presidents and treasurers. If you are a member and did not receive your dues notice, please contact the Society at P.O. Box 2765, Champaign, IL 61825-2765, and be sure to enlighten us with the current addresses for your chapter's house corporation, we REALLY appreciate knowing the most current information so we can keep you in the loop of information.

In the last few months the Board has approved projects for renovations at Alpha Tau Omega- DePauw University, bathroom renovations at Alpha Phi – Illinois, repairs and maintenance work to Sigma Nu chapter house at Illinois and a large grant for renovations at Alpha Tau Omega-Nebraska.

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## In Memoriam

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The SPGH Board wishes to note the passing of the Zeta Beta Tau chapter house on the University of Illinois campus. The chapter and house corporation have razed the old chapter house and are building a totally new home: which will be a residence composed of several suites and a common dining room and chapter room. The Society regrets the loss of this historical home for the ZBTs. We would like to wish them well in the new chapter house which is in progress at the site of the old chapter home on Fourth Street in Champaign.

The Society would like to ask any chapter that is considering razing their present home to contact us so that we may take a visual record for the university archives of your respective university and in Champaign-Urbana, at least, allow preservationists to come in to help you salvage as many artifacts as possible. We recommend the same for other locales.



*Zeta Beta Tau house, 1966*

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# Preservation Tips

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Preserving a Greek-letter organization's history can be a daunting task. History is often thought of as what has happened in the past. It is difficult for chapter members to think that what is happening in the present will someday be considered history. Current chapter members are living the history of the chapter and it is important that the events of each academic year be preserved for posterity. Where does a chapter start?

Some of the items that can help tell a story of the history of an organization are minute books, membership lists, fraternity magazines, chapter newsletters, scrapbooks, and assorted communications (letters, mailings, flyers, programs, etc.). It is important to chronicle on a yearly basis the membership roll, philanthropic efforts, social events, awards, and the improvements in chapter housing.

It is essential that these items be stored in a dry, protected environment. It was heartbreaking to see an Illinois chapter whose nearly full run of the fraternity magazine was destroyed by a flood in the basement room where the bound volumes were stored.

With more and more communication being done via computer and e-mail, it is imperative that a chapter member be designated to print and preserve a copy of important information.

A committee can be assigned to take care of this task. Members of this committee should be carefully chosen and each member should have a love of history and a deep desire to preserve it for future chapter members.

Archival supplies can be purchased from several companies including:

- Gaylord Brothers  
www.gaylord.com  
1-800-634-6307
- University Products  
www.universityproducts.com  
1-800-336-4847
- Light Impressions  
www.lightimpressionsdirect.com  
1-800-828-6216

If the chapter does not have the resources or the wherewithal to take on such a large task, the University of Illinois Student Life and Culture Archives can help. The Archives are a wonderful spot to deposit some of the chapter's historic items themselves or duplicates of the items, if the chapter wishes to keep items in their own archives.

The items sought by the Archives are: constitutions, charters, and by-laws; minutes and reports of meetings and committees; membership lists; organizational histories; publications and publicity material - newsletters, brochures, event programs and booklets; officers' files - correspondence and memoranda (incoming and outgoing) and subject files concerning projects, activities, and functions; scrapbooks; and audio-visuals: photographs, films, and video tapes.

## Question in Regard to Fund-Raising?

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Brian Murphy, the new Alpha Delta Phi alumnae president suggested we have a provision for electronic fund-raising. There is a set-up fee in the range of \$250, a monthly statement charge that is rather sizable and a charge for each transaction. The SPGH Board needs to know if this way of raising funds would be attractive enough to each of you raising funds for the costs incurred. We would, of course, have to pass the costs through to each chapter who chooses to use this method of raising funds for their respective renovations. Please let us know what you think by responding to us at; SPGH, P. O. Box 2765, Champaign, IL 61825-2765, as soon as possible.

## SPGH

Society for the  
Preservation of  
Greek Housing  
PO Box 2765  
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## A Reminder

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The Society maintains a web site which includes copies of many of the newsletters and copies of our GRANT APPLICATIONS with lots of information pertaining to what we most likely can give grants for and what we cannot allow. If you need applications for grants you are welcome to download them from the site which is [www.spghfoundation.org](http://www.spghfoundation.org).

