



Society for the Preservation of Greek Housing

# NEWSLETTER

*Volume 5, Number 2, Winter 2000*

## **SPGH BOARD FOR 2000 !**

President- Karen Lang-Kummer, Vice-president- Aaron Daley, Secretary- John Seiler, Treasurer- Cara Augspurger and Directors- Duane Frichtl, Carol Miles, Terri Carr and Ellen Swain. The Ex-Officio members remain David Bechtel, Rod Reid and Craig Jackson.

## **SERVING ON THE SPGH BOARD**

If you are interested in preserving historic Greek chapter houses, the Society welcomes you to attend our monthly meetings. The Society generally meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 4:30 pm in Champaign, Illinois. Please call Terri Dodson, Society Executive- Director at 217-373-6887 for more information. Any member organization is welcome to send a representative to any meeting and to put forth a candidate for a position on the Board. In fact, we strongly encourage your participation. At this time we do need one or two more Board members.

## **WE HAVE A NEW PROGRAM YOU SHOULD USE !**

In order to further our educational and preservation missions, the Board of the Society will begin funding a part-time graduate student at the University of Illinois Archives-Student Life section to write chapter histories of sororities and fraternities a copy of which will be put I

into the University of Illinois Archives. Your Chapter would also get a copy to use as they needed. Each chapter is **strongly** encouraged to collect and preserve everything from scrapbooks and previous histories to letters from prominent alumni and certificates of founding as documents for the histories to be written.

Ellen Swain the Student Life Archivist will be hiring the graduate student whom we hope can begin working on the histories this summer. Ellen has a list of 82 sororities and fraternities active on the University of Illinois campus. In order to chose which histories will be worked on first the Board is having to make some decisions. Because members of the Society support the graduate student through their paying of dues, it was suggested that chapters who are members of the Society have their histories written first. We encourage **all chapters** to preserve their heritage at the Archives; it is a safe place, better than in a closet or basement cupboard, and everything can be checked out for use by authorized persons at any time. Better yet make copies of your important documents and preserve them at the Archives.

Included in chapter history information should be as much of the following information as possible.

1. Date chapter history or histories have been written.

2. A brief (paragraph) history of founding of the national.  
Purposes and motto, etc.
3. Founding date of chapter.
4. Founders and charter members( include a brief biography if possible).
5. Influential or famous members throughout history both collegiate and alumni.
6. Chronology of meeting places and houses.
7. Significant events and activities, including but not limited to....social events  
....important visitors  
...anniversary celebrations of chapter  
....founders' day activities  
....philanthropies, community service activities  
....scholarship activities and honors  
....awards to the chapter
8. History of publications(list with dates)  
....chapter newsletters  
....manuals, rush booklets
9. Chapter house information  
....address, both current and any and all previous locations since founding  
....construction dates  
....architect and builder  
....financing  
....major renovations and repairs with appropriate dates  
....damages by natural disasters, i.e. floods and fires  
....include historic photographs, if available  
....note location of blueprints, if known  
....legal description of property and ownership, if possible

....unique architectural features, descriptions and photographs  
Appendix could include lists of chapter presidents, officers, housedirectors, too.  
Also, be sure to include any information of special interest to the chapter.

#### **Possible sources of information**

Architectural blueprints  
National histories  
Prior written chapter histories  
Oral interviews  
Chapter newsletters  
National magazines  
Photographs  
University Archives, and at Illinois: the Illio, Daily Illini, Alumni News and Illinois Quarterly.

### ***ASK WHAT WE CAN DO FOR YOU***

Most of the chapter houses at the University of Illinois and the University of Nebraska are over a half- century old and require continuous rehabilitation and restoration. *The Society for the Preservation of Greek Housing* is uniquely positioned to help the Greek system, by preserving our chapter homes and heritage through tax- deductible gifts from alumni. We hope you will take advantage of this special opportunity to join our organization as a chapter. For instance, we presently have several renovations and fundraisers going on at this time, including the following ;

#### **Phi Delta Theta**

The Phi Delta Theta chapter house at 309 E. Chalmers in Champaign was completely renovated in 1989-90. The only part of the house that was

left untouched was the heating system. In the winter of 1997-98 heating pipes began breaking randomly at the first floor and basement level. After repairing several of these problems in order to make it through the heating season, an engineering study was done of the HVAC system. It was recommended that the entire system be replaced.

In May of 1999, after finals were over, Phi Delt began a \$275,000. project to replace the heating system. While the chapter house was being torn up the project was expanded to include the addition of Ethernet service to the house. Numerous minor repairs were also done to concur with fire code regulations as well. The HVAC system was designed and built to provide colling to the building at a future date. The original radiator covers on the first floor were left in place to conform to standards of renovation by the National Register of Historic Places Guidelines. Phi Delta Theta had chosen, based on the school calendar, to do their fund- raising after the project, and over this past summer SPGH gave approval for grants to cover all of the heating replacement, all painting and replacement of flooring in eight sleeping rooms.

The fund- raising efforts with the help of SPGH are continuing, and Phi Delta Theta is well on its way to their goal of raising \$75,000.

#### **Lambda Chi Alpha**

Peter Kale reports from Lambda Chi at Illinois: in the past two years the chapter house has had; the library remodeling completed, the foyer clock restored, the living room floor

replaced, bathroom improvements on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, plumbing and boiler upgrades, a new roof and gutters, and remodeling of room 201/202 the new room plans for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors. About \$85,000. has been spent so far. This winter the stairs will be refinished where needed after the interior work is complete. This is a very good start, *and, completely paid for, through fund- raising efforts.*

As more funding becomes available through continued donations to SPGH completion of the room remodeling(estimated cost \$50,000); tuck-pointing (\$20,000); computer cable-system to rooms (\$6000);refinishing woodwork (\$20,000); outdoor concrete work (\$20,000);window improvements (\$40,000);and additional plumbing and heating upgrades (\$20,000). Lambda Chi is very pleased with their success so far, and they are still actively raising funds through the Society.

#### **Beta Sigma Psi**

The Alpha chapter of Beta Sigma Psi started it Project 2000 Restoration and Renovation Project in the summer of 1995. They are in the midst of a seven phase project. Already much has been accomplished for about \$100,000 they have resurfaced parking lot and driveway; partial replacement of 2<sup>nd</sup> floor bathroom plumbing; replacing and upgrading electrical systems, installation of computer network and telephone wiring, and reconstruction of a portion of the "moat". Future phases of the project call for total replacement of the aged heating system upgrade on firewalls and doors, replacement of rest of plumbing system remodeling the

kitchen many life-safety upgrades , architectural finish restorations, exterior painting, gutter and downspout replacement and installation of a new fire alarm system. SPGH is happy to be involved in fund-raising for one of the chapter houses on the *National Register of Historic Places*. The last several phases are estimated to cost \$315,000. GOOD LUCK to Beta Sigma Psi.!

**Alpha Delta Phi**

**Alpha Delta Phi** at Illinois is raising funds to do some major renovations including replacement of their slate roof. They will report more as work progresses.

**SPGH**

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