

ΣΘΕ

NATIONAL CONCLAVE OF CHAPTERS



Indianapolis, IN
April 13-15, 2007

Official Conclave Journal

Attention 00 Agents of Sigma Theta Epsilon

This journal is designed to enhance your Conclave experience through a superior exposure to intelligence and information about the weekend. It is our hope that the information included in this journal allows for a smooth and error-free Conclave weekend, helping us quickly find our encouragement to renew our “License to Serve”.

Among the information you will find are chapter and officer reports. These contain the information on how our fraternity has spent the last twelve months “On His Majesty’s Saintly Service”. Hopefully, you will find encouragement to remind you that “Brothers are Forever”.

You will also find recommendations for National Officers on the business proposals to be considered by the Conclave. It is the hope of those helping to assemble these opinions that they help cooler heads prevail, and prevent rash reactions, as we can always “DKR Another Day”.

In addition, you will find the proposed budget for the upcoming year. Read over it carefully. Take nothing personal, but remember that quite often “The Dues are Not Enough”.

We honestly hope that this journal allows for a smooth and quick time in business. This will allow for more fellowship, and maybe even send you back home hoping to recruit others who will find out “You Only Pledge Twice”. It’s also our hope that the weekend increases your passion for the fraternity, and sends you home seeing things through a “Purple and Golden-Eye”. You may even leave with a crazy new nickname that only Conclave attendants will know the true meaning of, such as “Octopu-STE”.

As always, Conclave is a time for business, socializing, fun, and seriousness. There will be a ritual Saturday evening, so if you aren’t prepared, make sure you are able “To Borrow Others’ Ties”. And, as always, feel free to share stories of STE in your life, and on your campus, and back in your day. And feel free to tell the story of “The Sweetheart Who Loved Me”.

Enjoy the weekend, be refreshed by the weekend. Conclave 2007 comes to you “From Indy With Love”, and will be a true “Conclave Royal”.

Just remember, this information is For Your Eyes Only. This Journal, however, will not self-destruct, so be careful in handling it.

And may Christ guide all his 00 agents from Sigma Theta Epsilon by His light, this weekend and always.

Table of Contents

Officer Reports	
Chad Burdette, National President	Page 3
Shannon Wagers, National Vice President	Page 5
Tyler Betts, National Secretary	Page 6
Alex Johnson, National Financial Director	Page 7
Justin Evilsizor, National Alumni Director	Page 8
Aaron Aldridge, National Historian	Page 9
Josh Parsell, National Information Technology Director	Page 10
Chapter Reports	
Delta Chapter	Page 11
Epsilon Chapter	Page 13
Alpha Gamma Chapter	Page 15
Beta Beta Chapter	Page 16
Beta Gamma Chapter	Page 17
Beta Delta Chapter	Page 18
Beta Epsilon Chapter	Page 19
Beta Zeta Chapter	Page 21
Beta Eta Chapter	Page 22
Beta Theta Chapter	Page 23
Beta Iota Chapter	Page 24
Missouri Valley College Colony	Page 25
Proposed Budget	Page 27
Business Proposal Recommendations	
Revision to the Ritual	Page 28
Revision to the Standard	Page 29
Revision to the Statement of Faith	Page 30

2006-2007 for the National President

The 2006-2007 school year has been the beginning of a transition for both the fraternity and my personal life. Since we last met for our annual Conclave I moved back home from completing my Public Administration Masters degree and my job as a substitute teacher and then here to Albany, NY to start my current job with the NY state office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities. The move to NY has probably been one of the hardest things in my life I have done given the fact that I moved without knowing anyone in the area and the closest person I know is my older brother over in Connecticut. While there has been a lot of change in my personal life one thing has remained the same: my commitment and desire to make this fraternity the best it can be.

I do not mean for the majority of this report to be all doom and gloom, because I do think the fraternity is on firm ground, especially for an organization on the verge of a major transition. However this year has seen its fair share of things that have caused the fraternity to take a small step back or not move forward as steadily as possible.

The first thing that negatively affected the fraternity was that I had to ask for the resignation of the National Expansion Director at the beginning of the school year due to circumstances that could have negatively impacted the fraternity if it had not been addressed. While I will not go into the details of the situation, I will say that the events leading up to the decision and the fallout were stressful and did affect me personally to some extent but were handled in a manner that involved a lot of prayer from those involved.

The Housing Corporation has also been a topic of much discussion amongst the chapters who live in the houses and the brotherhood at large. While the Housing Corporation is doing its best and operating within the means that it currently has there is room for improvement. This improvement needs to be from both the Corporation itself and the chapters it serves. The Housing Corp is really still in the beginning stages of development and will make mistakes, however it is important that we on the board are made aware of problems as they happen and are relayed in a constructive way so that we can focus on the future.

Communications continues to be an area where both Nationals and the chapters have fallen short. Chapters are not reporting numbers in a timely fashion and monthly reports are not being sent in, newsletters are not being published, even communication by email has been slow this year. I will be the first to take blame for this failure. Since taking on the Expansion duties at the beginning of the school year and having a colony to work with right from the start it was at times overwhelming and both the President and Expansion did not receive the amount of attention that they deserved. This, along with my inability to access the boards on a regular basis during the day has lead me at times to feel that a I have not always been able to give the proper time and leadership to the fraternity, but believe that I am making headway in resolving this issue.

The new National Pledgemaster has a lot of work ahead of them, not only in establishing this new office but in dealing with things that have been ongoing concerns. The New Pledgemaster will be responsible for rebuilding the expansion materials and reestablishing

both the Beta Theta and Beta Iota chapters. In the fall an attempt to restart the Beta Theta chapter began. I would like to thank Tyler and the brothers at the Epsilon chapter for the time and effort they put in this endeavor. While there was no pledge class this year I believe groundwork now exists to build off of in the year to come.

As of Conclave, the Beta Iota chapter will be an inactive chapter. This turn of events came as a surprise to the National Officers as we had no prior warning of the brotherhoods there decision to declare inactivity. After talking to James Carr, the former chapter president, I got a better understanding of the situation and only wish that they would have given Nationals a chance to help them make the fraternity work. These problems while important and needing to be addressed in the coming year, are not so serious that they cannot be learned from and corrected in a timely fashion.

Along with the problems there have been many good times this year. I got to travel to Missouri Valley College, San Antonio, and Cincinnati. My trip to Missouri Valley College in August was great because I got to meet the guys there and establish relationships with the guys there. These guys are a great group and their passion for the fraternity really excites me and I know that they will do great things on their campus. I had the pleasure of attending Fall Gathering out West with the brothers of Beta Delta and Beta Zeta. Even with the airline delays on the trip out there and the way back, I would do it all again just to spend time and fellowship with the brothers out there. In February I traveled to Cincinnati to attend and help referee the STE Bowl with the other National Officers while it was freezing cold, it was a lot warmer then it was back in Albany. Traveling to the chapters and fellowshiping with the actives is one thing that I have enjoyed doing over the years since I get to met brothers I usually don't see at the National Meetings. The bulletin boards continue to be a place where brothers and alumni from across the country and fellowship with one another. This weekend I will be unveiling my vision for how we can take this to the next level and use it to help promote the fraternity and reach new groups.

I believe the fraternity as a whole is headed in the right direction even though there are some issues that need to be addressed. The fraternity has been in a state of transitioning and restructuring over the past few years and I believe the end of this period is soon. I believe that after the first year under the new Constitution the fraternity will be at a place where the focus can shift from organizational details and we can begin to work on things such as building and strengthening the chapters and brothers. We are also now in a better position to increase our rate of expansion and promoting the fraternity while at the same time strengthening our current chapters and I look forward to sharing how I plan on accomplishing these things and how the actives can help in this area. Finally I hope everyone enjoys themselves this weekend. Much planning has taken place to make this year special as we celebrate and usher in this new era of the fraternity. I would also like to say that as we debate business such as changes to the Standard, Ritual Book and the National Statement of Faith that no matter our disagreements we remember that we all serve the same God and that he should be the focus of everything we do and that everything we do should be in service to Him

2006-2007 for the National Vice President

Brothers,

I want to welcome you all to the 2007 Sigma Theta Epsilon National Conclave of Chapters. It my hope and prayer when you receive this that you have had good and safe travel.

It has been my privilege and honor to serve the past 4 years as your National Vice President. I have been encouraged by your deeds and actions over this span of time. I also have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know as many of you as I can on a personal level. Connecting with my brothers is an area I hold deep in my heart and needless say I have been overly blessed in this area.

As I depart from this office to other endeavors, I reflect upon John 15: 1 – 11.

1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. 9 "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

My desire is that each of you, would take up the task of being fruitful for the best interests of Sigma Theta Epsilon and find “joy complete“in our Brotherhood.

In the past year, I have been fortunate to work together with our Brothers to revise the Standard as a peer reviewer, as well as completing the task of what will soon be known as the Ritual. I have done my best to be held accountable to the needs of local brothers and to that of the National organization. In this, I have had the opportunities to communicate via Internet, phone, and (my personal favorite) in person with a host of brothers on a number of topics. I have tried my best to keep an open door policy whenever my schedule allows for it. It is been my intent that you have found me to be a servant unto you and accountable to your needs.

As we enter into the Conclave, our Brotherhood has several important decisions to make. I trust that each of you have prayerfully considered the task that lies before us, and would ask that we unite as fellow workers to accomplish what God has brought us together to do.

In closing, I would like to again thank each of you for the opportunity that I have been blessed with to serve as your National Vice President.

Truly in the Spirit of Philoi,

Shannon Wagers
National Vice President

2006-2007 for the National Secretary

The past twelve months for me can be summed up in one word: transition.

Last May, I made the difficult choice to stop my pursuit of a Master's Degree in Mathematics, and applied for a one-year leave of absence from Bowling Green State University, with the intention of fully withdrawing at the end of the leave of absence. This began a whirlwind attempt to look for a new job, which led me to come face-to-face with rejection and failure as job interview after job interview fell through. Finally, this past December, I was contracted to be an agent with AFLAC, where my career is off to a promising start.

Personally, my life has been in transition as well. My wife and I were part of a visioning team at our old church for emerging ministries, and as a result have wound up as a core group at a plant church in Findlay called Journey. Additionally, we have dealt with turmoil on her job front, the loss of a dear friend and brother, and adjustment to what marriage (and our relationship) looks like for us when neither of us are in school.

In my office, I knew that this would be my last year as National Secretary, and planned on making this year a transitional year. As a result, I have worked to get documents up-to-date to pass on to whoever replaces me in the office. They will have no back log of shingles to process, as I did when I took over the office. They will also receive electronic copies of constitutions from all chapters, a list of officers of current chapters, and a template for publications.

Despite this being a transitional year, I have attempted to pour my heart into the work I have done for the Fraternity. I attended Officer Advance in Cincinnati last summer, and Fall Gathering in Illinois this past October. I worked with members of Epsilon chapter to attempt to cultivate a pledge class at Ohio University, and corresponded with brothers in many different ways in the current attempts to find a more inclusive Statement of Faith. I have also attempted to be available to correspondence to any brother who so requests from me, though I admit I was sometimes slow in responding to some requests (a result of the personal transitions alluded to above).

As I look forward to what is in store for the Fraternity and this office, I see hope. I see a future that is brighter for both than what it was when I originally took office in 2004. I am thankful beyond words for the opportunity to serve as National Secretary for three years, and look forward to being able to serve this Fraternity in whatever role they would have me, for as long as they would have me and as long as God (and my wife) permits.

2006-2007 for the National Financial Director

This shall be the last report made by a National Financial Director.

This year was filled with many challenges. Chapters are having trouble maintaining numbers, Pledge pins seem impossible to order and Life just seems to be getting in the way of the office.

This year I took a different approach to the National Finances, as I have come across in years past as “The money man” or only contacting the chapters if I wanted money. So this year, I tried hard not to grumble about where the money was coming from, and for the most part, chapters have paid on time. A few have needed reminded that they owed dues, but I can see that I need to be a little more firm. In my next term I will try to find a happy medium between the two styles.

As some of you know, I have changed jobs and moved states since last Conclave. I currently reside in NW Ohio, near my family, and am really enjoying my job. This has lead to less stress for me, and I can hopefully devote more time to the Fraternity for my last term in office.

I finally was able to order pledge pins and badges after weeks of phone tag with our supplier. Unfortunately, it is cost prohibitive to switch suppliers, but now that I have the direct number of our account specialist, we should have better sailing in the future for this.

I worked on the National store a little bit, and have decided to share the address here in my report so that Brothers can buy stuff. If you buy something please let me know what the quality is like so that we can gauge if this is the way we want to continue to go in the future. <http://www.cafepress.com/stenationalstor> The National Organization makes a profit of \$1 on each item right now. Once the store gets rolling and we can get people to submit designs for the store, profits may rise a bit, but hopefully we can sell enough each year to pay for the premium store.

One thing that I very much slacked in this year was helping the chapters to raise money. This needs to be a key item for the newly elected National Treasurer to work on. (hopefully it is me).

2006-2007 for the National Alumni Director

Dear STE,

It's been an honor to serve the Fraternity these past 8 years - four locally, four nationally. Many changes in my life have brought me to the point where I need to step down from my office; though I earnestly hope it is only for the time being. At the moment, my sponge has been wrung out, and I need to soak up more before I can serve once again. As my final duty for this term, I pledge to help whomever fills this role to become versed in all matters of importance (there are still no nominees at the time of this writing).

Thank you.

Justin Evilsizor

2006-2007 for the National Historian

The past year has been a quite one for the office of the National Historian, but that is par for the course with this office, one reason why it will no longer exist at the start of this Conclave. Although I have had two long term projects running, the scanning of the entire archives and the compilation of a complete history of the fraternity, I have accomplished very little during the past year due to the time demands of my law practice and various family matters (including the birth of our second child, Kara, this past February). The main tasks I have completed in relation to my office has been a complete re-organization of the archives and the merging of my personal archives with the fraternity archives. My personal archives consisted of documents and other items with I had obtained from various alumni or acquired from other sources such as university newspaper archives and ebay.com.

I have also been involved in various other activities as a National Officer, most notably in the massive revision of the Standard, which will be a primary item of business at Conclave. This was necessitated by the adoption of the new constitution last Conclave, which consumed the majority of my time the previous year. Other activities have included attending Fall Gathering at Epsilon chapter, participating in discussions on the boards (although my time for that has been greatly curtailed as of late), and researching the answers to various history questions that pop up from time to time.

As for my future plans and goals, my primary goal of writing a complete national history has not changed, and will not change even though the office of National Historian will no longer exist. I have no idea when this task will be completed, but one of these days it will be finished. As I have been involved in the national fraternity in one capacity or another for the better part of the last twelve years, I have no desire to run for another national office at this time. However, I do still maintain a great interest in the fraternity, and hope to continue serving the fraternity in whatever role I can best be of assistance. In particular, I hope to continue in my current capacity as a historian, perhaps in an appointed role, or as an assistant to the National Secretary, to whom my duties will pass. I very much enjoy working with the archives, both conducting research and hunting for new additions, and I would be most grateful to be able to continue those tasks in the future.

As always, I am more than willing to research and answer in questions anyone has about the history of our fraternity. I thank the Conclave for giving me this opportunity to continue my service, and I look forward to serving the fraternity in whatever capacity possible in the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Aaron Aldridge

2006-2007 for the National IT Director

This past fall I attended Fall Gathering East, hosted by Beta Eta at West Virginia University.

Over the course of the year I have tried to keep up-to-date with fixing email address forwarders as Chapter Presidents change. I have made some more progress on a new version of steDB, but it is not yet to a point where it can replace the current system.

I have also tried to keep in touch with the other National Officers via the bulletin boards, weighing in with my opinion when needed. Recognizing that my position will not have the same responsibilities next year under the new Constitution, I have tried to pull back somewhat with my involvement in actual decision-making.

This has been a busy year for me personally and professionally. My first child (a son) is due to be born in June so this summer promises to be full of new and exciting experiences, such as not sleeping and cleaning up other people's poo. I will refrain from making the obvious joke about the old days living in the frat house.

I have also spent the last 10 months finishing the basement in my house. It has been a long, challenging, and fun project, but mostly just long. It is very close to being done, which is fortunate, because we are about to put our house on the market to sell it.

After 5 years in Virginia, my wife and I are moving back "home" to Cincinnati, where I have accepted a new job starting at the end of April. I am looking forward to being much closer to our family and many of our friends. I also hope to be able to reconnect with my home chapter at UC and become involved as a member of their House Management Team.

Philo,

Joshua Parsell
National IT Director

2006-2007 for Delta Chapter

Socially, the Delta chapter has had a very successful year thus far. However, our big social event for the spring, our annual picnic will be held after Conclave is over. Delta continues to be bonded together through the many events we have. We always have dinner together on Monday evenings at 5pm which is a good way for everyone to see each other and get to know one another better.

Also, Delta has gone to many events held by the Student Activities Council at Mount Union, such as a musical group or sketch comedians. Delta also enjoys playing sports together and organized several events where we played basketball and football together. This year, Delta has also installed the idea of the NUKE, which was gotten from another chapter. The NUKE is a competition between the active brothers and the pledges to see who will have the ball by the time of the pledge test.

Delta has also gone bowling together several times, with one time we went being the pledge social event. The other pledge social event was a wing eating contest. This year, Delta has also grooved to the tunes of Christian artists when we attended the Winter Jam Festival in Cleveland which saw many Christian bands playing at one time. One final social event Delta has held was the annual semi-formal dance which was held in November. Overall, Delta has had a very successful year in bonding together through Christ.

During this school year, Delta has had the opportunity to participate in many service events which we organized and also others where we took part in with other campus organizations. During the fall semester, Delta had several brothers that participated every week in a program called Cyber Seniors which was a 10 week program for one hour a week where the brothers helped senior citizens with computer skills. Another service event held during the fall semester was a 50/50 raffle which was held at a Mount Union football game. Delta ended up selling \$200 in raffle tickets, and we donated \$100 to the Alliance Emergency Residence. Another service event we participated in was organized by another group on campus. This event was during the fall semester also and about 7 brothers from Delta took time out of a Sunday afternoon to spend several hours raking yards for senior citizens in the surrounding Alliance community. For the pledges' service event during both fall and spring semesters, they organized events at the local YMCA, including painting and cleaning. This year, the Delta chapter has had the privilege of partnering with the Alliance Neighborhood Center in putting together a program entitled, "The Rock." This program is for children of the Alliance Community and is an outreach where children from all the local churches can come and learn about their faith more while the Delta chapter is in charge of facilitating the lesson. For example, we did a lesson around Thanksgiving and focused the subject around greed and being thankful for what God has given us. Delta has also done an outreach at a local United Methodist church with a youth group several weeks ago where we talked with students about making transitions in life, from grade school to high school and high school to college. We learned about this opportunity through a resident director here at Mount Union. The most recent service event held by Delta was an event for Little Sibs weekend in which we did a piñata. We had a very good turnout for this event with about 20 kids participating in the event, it was a great success, better than we thought it would have been.

Between now and Conclave, Delta plans on doing a food drive for the local Alliance Food Bank which we held last year and ended up with a large amount of canned goods for the

food bank. After Conclave is over, Delta will be doing its final service event in which we will be partnering with the United Way for its Youth Day of Caring.

This year was a very successful year for Delta in its religious endeavors. Several of the service events which we participated in were also able to be given a religious undertone about what it means to be a Christian. Delta has continued to grow closer to Christ and also to one another through Christ.

Recently, Delta has started to circulate a prayer list in which the brothers can give him prayer requests then he will e-mail them out during the week so that we can all be praying for one another. A perfect example of this is that Delta had a brother in need of encouragement for a family relative. For this, Delta sent him encouragement letters to give to his relative. This was just one way we were able to support a brother in a time of need. Throughout the year our bible studies done by our chaplain every week have been very helpful. During the fall semester, our chaplain had a great idea and did a five week series on the founding principles of STE. Not only did it help the current pledges at the time understand STE better, but it also gave the brothers a refresher course as well. Overall, Delta has been able to grow closer together through the Holy Spirit

The most successful event held by the Delta chapter this year has been the outreach which we have been doing at the Alliance Neighborhood Center (ANC) and also with the United Methodist church. We heard about the opportunity with the ANC through the Mount Union department of service learning. We proceeded to meet with the director of the ANC and we have done several events with local churches at the ANC. The other most successful event was the outreach with the United Methodist church where we talked about transitions in life, mainly between high school and college. We believe that these were our most successful events because we were able to combine service and also talk about the importance of our faith. The Delta chapter also believes it is very important to show the younger kids that there are still good college kids who adhere to the principles that Christ originally set out.

Delta wanted to continue to grow in numbers this year. At the beginning of the year we wanted 10 new brothers. We fell just short of this number, however we were able to recruit 4 new brothers last semester and we have 4 pledges again this semester. So we were still very successful and the new brothers from last semester were very involved with everything which was great to see. Delta also did a good job of reaching out to its alumni this year. We sent several newsletters out and are in the process of sending one more out and also a flyer for our annual picnic at the end of the year.

For next year, Delta wants to continue to grow in numbers. We have set a goal for a total of 10 new pledges for all next year, 5 and 5 each semester. Another goal for Delta is to have high attendance at Fall Gathering and also at Conclave. Another goal for Delta next year is to get more campus and community involvement

Current Membership Numbers:

17 Actives, 4 Pledges

2006-2007 for Epsilon Chapter

List of events of the Epsilon Chapter this year, to date:

- House Parties (Sep. 10, Nov. 11, Dec. 1)
- Worship Nights (every other Wednesday)
- Ultimate Frisbee (Rush Event)
- Man Olympics (Rush Event)
- Pancake-Jamboree (Rush Event)
- Ice Cream Social (with Kappa Phi, Sept. 26)
- Alumni Hog Roast (Sept. 30)
- Hosted Fall Gathering (Oct. 20-22)
- Halloween Party (Oct. 31)
- Ada Music Feast (Nov. 11) (Service Project)
- Kappa Phi Sing-A-Thon (Dec. 8-9)
 - Brotherhood, Pledges, and Rock Opera Time Slots)
- Canned Food Drive (monthly)
- Christmas party (Dec. 18)
- Brotherhood Seminar (Jan. 13)
- Semi-Formals with Kappa Phi (Jan. 27)
- Beach Party (Feb. 16)
- Alumni Banquet (Mar. 31)

Future events for the Epsilon Chapter:

- Camp Otterbein (April 20-22)
- Relay for Life (April 27-28)
- Toga Party (May 4)
- Formals/New Sweetheart (May 5)

Epsilon's most successful event this year would definitely be our STE Break '07 beach party. We brought five thousand pounds of sand into our common room to simulate a beach, as well as fake palm trees and flowers. We had a giant twister board and limbo being used throughout the night, and beach themed music was played all night. We also served virgin drink "Mocktails" out of our Tiki Bar. People were encouraged to dress as if they were going to the beach, and despite the snow outside several people still wore bathing suits, even if it was over other clothes. We saw approximately 200 non-brothers come through the house that night, as well as 35 actives.

Epsilon has grown in the area of Alumni relations through promptness with alumni newsletters and mailings for alumni events. Also, I (Quinn Wright) have been in conversation with alumni after events to get their perspective on how we can make relations and events better. Epsilon has also grown in its outreach to other organizations through attendance of their events, such as Pack the Chapel, Relay for Life, and Unite for Awareness Week.

While Epsilon has grown in its outreach, it has suffered in the area of in-reach. By this I mean that our events are often poorly attended by our own brothers. Brothers seem to be excited about planned events, whether they be social, service, or religious, and yet often times less than 50% of the active brothers will make an appearance at any given STE event. I would also like to see members taking more pride in the house, keeping it clean and presentable for non-brothers who visit.

Current Membership Numbers:

44 Actives, 1 Associate, 1 Inactive, 4 Pledges

2006-2007 for Alpha Gamma Chapter

So far this year Alpha Gamma has been working hard bring pride back to the brotherhood. In bringing pride back Alpha Gamma has been constantly visiting the elderly here in our little town. On many occasions we as a brotherhood has visited the elderly to bring joy and excitement back to their lives. Along with working with the elderly our pledge class as a religious event brought in a Greek Orthodox minister for a traditional service and a question and answer session. This event was not only opened to brothers but to the whole campus. These are only a few events we have done. We have cleaned multiple churches not only in Buckhannon, but also Weston, West Virginia.

Overall it has been a work filled semester with many internal rewards. We have also decided on a date for the Alpha Gamma 50th Anniversary which will be September 29th 2007. We invite all of Nationals and brothers of Sigma Theta Epsilon to join us in this momentous celebration.

Current Membership Numbers:

12 Actives, 3 Pledges

2006-2007 for Beta Beta Chapter

The Beta Beta chapter has been going through a time of rebuilding. We have been taking a long and hard look at our purpose, strengths, weaknesses, and the impact that we have on the community.

This has in part led to a recent increase in activity. We have been trying to schedule regular service opportunities. Examples of our service include painting an office at the Oxford Community Arts Center for another student organization and volunteering at Hope Lodge in Cincinnati for recovering patients of local hospitals. Also, during the weekend of Conclave, we will be sponsoring a team for Relay for Life.

Our most successful event is held on a weekly basis. It is called Circle of Men. It is 'a safe place to be dangerous.' On Sunday nights we gather together and discuss issues that we are dealing with. It is a place of support, encouragement, and accountability. If any of this sounds interesting to you, Ryan Snyder and I would be glad to field any questions.

Our numbers have been picking up, which is good, but we are still worried about the future of the local chapter at Miami. Our target area of growth for the coming year is to promote the growth of new leaders within the chapter, because we will be having almost half our chapter graduate this spring.

We have had times of hope and despair, concerning the future and direction of the Beta Beta chapter, but I believe that we have fresh members willing to stand up and make a difference in the community as some of us move on to our post-college lives.

Current Membership Numbers:

15 Actives, 4 Pledges

2006-2007 for Beta Gamma Chapter

This year has been a busy one for Beta Gamma. We have continued to hold our normal activities, such as our Thanksgiving dinner, canned food drive on Halloween, and our quarterly parties. The annual STE Bowl was held again at Cincinnati's Nipert Stadium. Sadly **{Editor's Note: By "sadly", author means "joyously"}** the brothers at Ohio Northern got lucky and pulled off another victory this year. The weekend was full of hard hits and great fellowship!

Some new events that have been especially good for our chapter this year have been:

- Monthly prayer and worship nights (Which have been very similar to S.M.O.T.S.)
- Fraternity Dinners before meetings
- St. Patrick's Day Dinner Party
- Game nights at the house

Game nights at the house have been a great way to bring brothers and non -brothers together in a fun wholesome Christian environment. We usually play various board-games that allow for great conversations and excellent fellowship. Another exciting facilitator of growth at Beta Gamma has been our small groups. The small groups at Beta Gamma consist of 3-4 brothers who meet weekly on a much more personal and intimate level; studying God's Word and providing prayer support for one another.

Though Beta Gamma currently only has 13 active, 4 associate, and 2 inactive brothers, we have big plans for the rest of the year! We feel God is really moving at the University and we're going to do everything we can to play a part in it.

Some of our upcoming events include, Formal, movie night, RUSH, campus activities fair, Passover, and our party. We pray that God is also moving in all the other chapters.

Current Membership Numbers:

13 Actives, 4 Associates, 2 Inactives

2006-2007 for Beta Delta Chapter

2006-2007 for Beta Epsilon Chapter

Beta Epsilon set out the following goals:

Service:

- To provide diverse service events which appeal to many types of spiritual gifts, to be measured at the end of the semester by participation and success.

Social:

- To plan informal events (ideas include: food, movies, game night, etcetera) where the brothers can hang out, get away from school, and get to know each other better with the goal of engendering trust and intense brotherhood, to be measured at the end of the semester by the general attitude of the brotherhood.

Spiritual:

- To be intentional about making our relationships with each other God-centered, to be measured by the opportunities provided, the participation, and the quality of those.

These goals were achieved via:

Service:

- Brothers talked to their church leaders for ideas
- Great Oaks camp
- Boys and Girls club
- Continuing our Bradley's Original Dodgeball Tournament and much fanfare.

Social:

- At the parties, provide opportunities for guys to meet new people
- Provide brothers with the opportunity to relax and get away from school
- First party of the year should strike a chord.
- Have informal events during the week such as game nights, dinners, movies, etc.

Spiritual:

- Work with Service chair to plan events with churches and more
- Work with the Social chairman to make the open parties more outreach-focused
- Love
- Religious chair help coordinate the Service, Social, and Chaplain
- During social events, bring a short bible study or prayer time or devotional
- Add religious focus to all social events
- Asking: How can we provide Accountability?
- Provide a bible study that is long and includes accountability group aspects

We continue to move forward by:

Social:

- Continue gathering brothers for more informal events.
- Social Chapter, Dedicate an evening chapter to quickly running through announcements and business and having an STE Iron-man competition.
- End of year picnic party (successful last spring)

Service:

- Set goal of 350 service hours for entire fraternity.
- Planned and orchestrated an STE mission trip to South Dakota
- Helped host a local Christian artist on campus.

Spiritual:

- We do not require brothers to be involved in a Bible study but we strongly encourage it. All the brothers are involved in a Bible study.
- Retreat, made a trip to Great Oaks Camp where we camped, held an 'unofficial' Secret Meeting of the Saints, did some service work for the grounds, and basically had a good time getting to know one another and bonding.
- Our chaplain, Mike Hayes, has been doing a fantastic job with devotionals for chapter meetings. He even helped organize our mission trip. We devoted a chapter to the religious focus of the fraternity and Mike did a wonderful job of speaking.

Although our goals and accomplishments may seem a bit random, another goal we have as a fraternity is to try to make Sigma Theta Epsilon feel more like a fraternity (brotherhood). You can call it an identity crisis and I feel it is important that we know we are, what we have done, what we are capable of doing, and establishing ourselves as a respectable organization on campus.

A few brothers have assumed the responsibility of looking for a permanent house. I am pleased to say that we have a good piece of property we are seriously looking at. There are a lot of things that still need to be worked out, but with God's grace, and the help of our alumni, we hope to find a permanent home.

Another way we are trying to increase the brotherhood aspect of the fraternity is by revamping the pledge process by making it more "intense." By 'intense' I do not mean hazing; I would like to make that clear. Some of the things our Plegemaster has implemented is creating a pledge retreat where they will rock climb and literally put their lives in their class's hands. Keith, our Pledgemaster, has also encouraged all the brothers to participate in pledge events in order for each one to get to know one another.

Current Membership Numbers:

20 Actives, 4 Pledges

2006-2007 for Beta Zeta Chapter

2006-2007 for Beta Eta Chapter

SUMMER / FALL

During the summer the brothers manned a table at our New Student Orientation everyday. There were several contacts made with both interested students and with other campus religious organizations.

In the fall our main focus was increasing the numbers for our pledge classes. We have had several pledge classes, but the numbers have been kind of low. Our hope is to increase our size so that we are not at risk of being placed on probation.

Our biggest activity of the fall was hosting one of the Fall Gathering sites. We had a great deal of fun playing games, engaging in bible study, and doing some much needed groundwork at the Scott's Run Settlement House. We at Beta Eta felt that it went well, and look forward to hearing from the other brothers' thoughts.

At the end of the semester elections were held in order to come into line with the new national constitution.

SPRING

The beginning of the spring semester we started working on a banner to hang up in the student union. We painted a twin sized sheet that took a couple meetings to finish and hung it up to advertise for our pledge period.

We also had a bible study centered around brotherhood that was lead by our chaplain and a couple social meetings. One Saturday we all went out to a Habitat for Humanity work site and worked on painting and building a deck. Another weekend we worked a fundraising dinner for Scott's Run Settlement Home, a child services organization, serving food and cleaning up.

Over spring break, seven members went on a mission trip to Chicago where we did various service projects such as working at 3 soup kitchens, 2 landscaping/painting activities for low income housing, and learning about the many ministries in Chicago. Currently we have 5 pledges and 10 active members. The pledges held a bible study and have a social dinner in the planning. We are planning to DKR 2 members at the end of the semester.

Current Membership Numbers

2006-2007 for Beta Theta Chapter

The Beta Theta Chapter, located at Ohio University in Athens, OH, currently has zero active members. The Chapter remains overseen by the National Organization, and will fall under direct supervision of the newly elected National Pledgemaster after he is elected at Conclave.

In the past year, attempts were made to have a rush on the campus, and to cultivate a Pledge Class. Efforts were headed by National Secretary Tyler Betts, Epsilon President Quinn Wright, and Epsilon Alumnus Matthew Westman. While the work done on the campus of Ohio University did not produce tangible results and a pledge class, the foundation has been laid, and interest has been expressed in joining a pledge class in the coming year.

It is the belief of the men involved with the process that Ohio University will see a pledge class in the coming year, and a return to strength for the Beta Theta chapter.

Questions should be directed towards Tyler Betts, and interest to help in the next phase of the process should be expressed to the soon-to-be-elected National Pledgemaster

Current Membership Numbers:

0 Actives, 0 Pledges

2006-2007 for Beta Iota Chapter

The National Officers of Sigma Theta Epsilon received the following from the Beta Iota Chapter in early March:

National Officers of Sigma Theta Epsilon,

As members of the Beta Iota chapter at Illinois Wesleyan University, we find it necessary to inform you of our decision to resign our charter as a chapter of Sigma Theta Epsilon. After weighing many matters, we believe that our brotherhood will be better suited to minister both to ourselves and others by reorganizing as a more inclusive men's ministry rather than as a part of STE.

We assure you that this decision has not been reached without considerable deliberation. The initial concern that led to this change was recruitment and membership. As you may be aware, our chapter has had trouble recruiting members from the outset. After several unsuccessful rush seasons, our numbers have remained relatively stagnant since the class of our founding fathers. After the series of failed rush seasons, it was only logical for us to consider why we were not attracting men into our brotherhood. We decided to become more focused on Christian brotherhood, which we believed was the main purpose of the fraternity. Yet, in consideration of this, it has become painfully obvious that there are men outside of our fraternity who are Christian brothers, yet are excluded from many activities. Our fraternity-led Bible studies hold several strong, Christian men who (for whatever reason) are not interested in joining our fraternity. The same was true for the campus ministries in which we are involved.

Naturally, it concerned us that we were forced to exclude these men from activities within our brotherhood. Ultimately, we came to question if a more inclusive men's ministry would fulfill unmet needs for Christian men on campus in a more effective manner. Having talked both amongst ourselves and with other Christian men on campus, we have arrived at a clear decision. It is our opinion that the fraternal organization, however beneficial in some regards, is not the ideal organization for the Illinois Wesleyan campus. We believe that we will be able to develop many new relationships and outreach programs in the men's ministry into which we have decided to transition.

In no way do we wish for this new direction to be construed as an affront to Sigma Theta Epsilon. Our independent status simply reflects the conditions specific to our campus and situation. We believe strongly in the mission of the fraternity and will continue to retain many of the values encouraged by STE. Our focus remains on Christian ministry; we believe our ability to minister to our campus, community, and world will be better served as an independent group.

We thank you for the effort and concern that Sigma Theta Epsilon has given to us. We hope that you will both understand and respect the decision that we have made. While our formal bond may be lessened, our common bond as Christian men working to continue the ministry of Christ will always remain. We pray that God will bless both the fraternity and our ministry in our respective efforts.

Most Sincerely,

The Men of the Beta Iota Chapter

Work on the campus of Illinois Wesleyan University will now fall onto the shoulders of the soon-to-be-elected National Pledgemaster.

Current Membership Numbers:

0 Actives, 0 Pledges

2006-2007 for the Missouri Valley College Colony

Major Activities Completed:

- Volunteered 40+ hours at the Lighthouse Shelter
- Hosted "See you at the Pole" on campus
- Took prospectives to a Christian Concert during rush week
- Swore in 11 pledges in the Beta pledge class
- Beta pledge class held a free poker tournament
- Hosted a five part lecture series on "The Supremacy of Christ"
- Helped get the Christian girls on campus on a Christian Sorority
- Worked with our campus radio station on starting and building a Christian music block every Sunday - also held various remote broadcasts with the station at various church youth groups
- Hosted a Sunday evening teen service at a local church
- Have become supporters and leaders of a weekly campus Bible study
- Hosted "Movie Night on the Quad"
- Host a bi-weekly praise and worship service called "The Coffee House"
- Acquired a key to, opened, and host events at the campus chapel (which has been closed and unused for years)
- Started a weekly 24-hour fast - beginning and ending with a prayer meeting

Events to be held before Conclave

- Pledge Class to host a cookout at the local Foothills Park
- Host a movie night showing Passion of Christ, Easter week
- Beta Pledge class to take National Test and become actives

Events to take place before the end of spring semester

- Co-host the Sigma Bowl, with members of Phi Beta Sigma (also not in the IFC and unable to participate in the Greek Games)
- Compete in the Step Competition, as part of Spring Fest Host "Pandemonium", a straight through reading of the Bible in the Quad
- Host a cookout at the park to Celebrate our induction as a Chapter

Our most successful event this semester was a five part lecture on "The Supremacy of Christ." We brought in two guest speakers for Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth Texas to host the lectures, Erskin Avantarte and Greg Gaumer. In the three days they were here, they gave a message on The Supremacy of Christ in love at a Intro to World Religions class taught by our campus Chaplain; a message on The Supremacy of Christ in Politics given in a banquet room on campus; a message on The Supremacy of Christ in Resurrection on the Quad; a two part message on the Supremacy of Christ in Our Lives during a youth lock-in at a local church; and a message on the Supremacy of Christ in Atonement to our campus Bible Study - Soldiers For Christ. In addition, for all messages (except the one in the classroom) we provided praise and worship, sponsored and

chaperoned the youth lock-in, and volunteered (with the youth) at a city wide trash clean-up day.

We have definitely witnessed growth in our numbers, more than doubling our membership with our inaugural pledge class. We have also seen a great deal of growth in campus and faculty awareness through hosting various events. There has also been growth of awareness in town because of the amount of church and community outreach we have participated in. And above all there has been a growth within ourselves as a brotherhood in Christ. The amount of time we spend together socially and spiritually has made us stronger in faith, accountability and love.

We intend to continue to grow our presence on the campus and the community through our outreach and events.

Current Membership Numbers:

8 Actives, 3 Associates, 1 Inactive, 11 Pledges

2007-2008 Budget Proposal

Proposal to revise the Standard

This proposal will be presented at Conclave as it was listed in the Pre-Conclave Journal, with a few minor changes. The largest change is the addition of the Conclave Rules of Order, which was accidentally omitted from the proposal when it was printed in the Pre-Conclave Journal. All other changes that have been accepted thus far are corrections of wording.

By a vote of 6-0, the National Officers recommend that the Conclave accepts this proposal.

The proposal brings about no major changes to policy in the fraternity. All changes proposed are required to bring about a smooth transition to the implementation of the new constitution, approved at last year's Conclave. When taken with the minor clarification remarks proposed in the discussion since the publication of the Pre-Conclave Journal, this proposal will allow the fraternity to continue to grow, and therefore the Conclave should adopt it.

Proposal to revise the Ritual

This proposal will be presented at Conclave as it was listed in the Pre-Conclave Journal, with the only changes being corrections of typographical errors.

By a vote of 6-0, the National Officers recommend that the Conclave accepts this proposal.

The National Officers see this as another “housekeeping” piece of legislation. This updates rituals to reflect changes put in place by the new constitution, approved by the Conclave in 2006. The other changes do not represent a major shift in philosophy for the fraternity, and are acceptable to the National Officers who put forth an opinion. To allow for correct rituals to occur under the new government of the fraternity, the National Officers believe that the Conclave should accept this proposal.

Proposal to revise the Statement of Faith

The proposal to revise the Statement of Faith has changed considerably since the publication of the Pre-Conclave Journal. The following is the proposal as it stands at the start of Conclave:

Appreciating the need for a statement of faith of our Christian Brotherhood, and believing that such a statement can stimulate and develop our Christian Brotherhood, and believing that such a statement can have a much more effective influence on the life and leadership of our Christian Brotherhood and its work in the world, we assert our faith and beliefs as Sigma Theta Epsilon, National Christian Fraternity, Incorporated. Our Christian Brotherhood honors and recognizes the faiths and practices of Christian denominations, as we base this statement of faith in the philosophy of "In Essentials, Unity. In Non-Essentials, Liberty. In All Things, Love "for the promotion of toleration, mutual respect and cooperation amongst Christian denominations and organizations.

I. WE BELIEVE that the Bible, consisting of the Old and New Testament, is the inspired Word of God and without error in its original writing. We recognize the views, separately and collectively, of the Bible and Church tradition as authorities in the areas of faith and practice.

II. WE BELIEVE in one completely holy and sovereign God, creator and sustainer of the heavens and the earth, who is perfect, all-knowing, all-powerful, and eternally co-existent as God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

III. WE BELIEVE that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ and that he was both fully God and fully man. He was born free of sin to a virgin and lived a holy life without sin. He was crucified, died and was buried. On the third day, He rose from the dead, appeared to many witnesses and ascended into heaven to the right hand of God from where He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead.

IV. WE BELIEVE that all have sinned and continue to sin; therefore every person deserves to spend eternity separated from God in conscious eternal punishment (Hell). However, people may be forgiven of their sins and receive eternal life in heaven by confessing that Jesus Christ is their Lord and believing in their heart that He died and rose again. Salvation can not be obtained by man because of any human work, but instead, entirely because of the grace of God. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no one comes to the Father but through Him.

V. WE BELIEVE that God gave the Holy Spirit to dwell in those who belong to Jesus Christ so that they might be conformed to His likeness and continually set apart in holiness (sanctified) until Jesus Christ returns.

VI. WE BELIEVE that the Church is composed of all true believers, with Jesus Christ as the Head. We believe that its members should assemble themselves together regularly with the local Church for worship, prayer, fellowship, teaching and to serve one another with the purpose of glorifying God. We believe that each believer is called to a life of faith demonstrated by obedience to God and His Word, the Bible; furthermore, He desires for us to stir up one another to love and good works, encouraging each other in obedience to Jesus Christ.

This is the Official Statement of Faith of Sigma Theta Epsilon, National Christian Fraternity. It is not subject to amendment. It was adopted only after a lengthy process involving all active chapters at the time of adoption, and involving input from brothers from many denominations and other factions of the Christian faith.

It should be noted, however, that it is not intended as a replacement for personal confessions of faith, nor personal beliefs among the brothers of Sigma Theta Epsilon. It should not be used to attempt to mold all brothers of Sigma Theta Epsilon into the same belief, but rather should be used for

advancing open and honest discussion among Christian brothers, and for challenging the beliefs we all hold.

Much like The Bible, different people will interpret The Official Statement of Faith of Sigma Theta Epsilon in many differing ways. As such, debate and discussion about the meanings, intentions, and beliefs behind the Statement of Faith can, should, and will arise. However, these cannot, and shall not, lead to amendments to the Statement of Faith.

This revised Statement of Faith shall take effect with the approval of 2/3 of the Conclave of Sigma Theta Epsilon.

By a vote of 1 in favor, 2 against, and 2 formal abstentions, the National Officers cannot recommend that the Conclave accepts this proposal.

The National Officers find several faults with the proposal to revise the Statement of Faith. Among these concerns are: the non-amendable clause, the lack of a committee to propose changes, the vast amount of additions to the document, and the fact that change is occurring in any form.

The Proposal may have more support if either of the following occurred:

- Change the non-amendable clause to “The Statement of Faith can only be amended, from this point forward, after a petition of at least 2/3rds of all active chapters to the National Board. At that point in time, the National Board shall have the power to appoint a committee to review and recommend changes to the Statement of Faith.”
- Withdraw the proposal entirely, and in its place submit a proposal for a committee to be formed to address necessary changes to the Statement of Faith