



# Σigma Φhi Δel ta Fraternity

## Vancouver Alumni Chapter

### The ALUMNIFLIER

September 1998

Dear Alumni:

*Welcome back to school! Err, ah, oops... A momentary lapse of reason! Welcome back to another end-of-summer newsletter! You will find lots of information bursting from the columns of this publication. Hopefully, the new layout is more pleasing to the eye. This newsletter has been sent to almost all of the Vancouver Alumni members who are in the database. If you know of any member who did not receive a copy, then please contact me as we likely do not have any address information for that person. In addition, if you have moved, then please forward your new address.*

#### THE PAST

##### **Fraternal Tidings**

The Vancouver Alumni chapter welcomes seven new University of British Columbia graduates. Some of these new members were asked about their career goals. It was found that some of them are still seeking employment; therefore, any chapter members requiring some fresh minds for their company may contact these young alumni:

- Darren Farnworth ('98 MECH): interested in project management and plans to stay in western Canada. ([darrenf@unixg.ubc.ca](mailto:darrenf@unixg.ubc.ca))
- Michael Florendo ('98 CIVL): landed a water resource management job in California ([mflorendo@hotmail.com](mailto:mflorendo@hotmail.com))
- Edmund Gin ('98 CHEM): presently working at U.B.C. for next three months and unsure of future plans. ([egin@unixg.ubc.ca](mailto:egin@unixg.ubc.ca))
- Jan Laursen ('98 ELEC): interested in the power industry. ([jlaursen@ee.ubc.ca](mailto:jlaursen@ee.ubc.ca))
- Geoff Lester ('98 CHEM): presently working in the Residential Development Group for Canadian Western Natural Gas

in Calgary, Alberta, and has started building a house with his wife, Keri-ann. ([gcraig@unixg.ubc.ca](mailto:gcraig@unixg.ubc.ca))

- Christian Pederson ('98 MMAT): whereabouts unknown. ([chrisped@unixg.ubc.ca](mailto:chrisped@unixg.ubc.ca))
- Tony Snead ('98 CHEM): interested in the oil and gas industry, hopes to work for a consulting firm (i.e. Colt) and plans to return to school later. ([aesnead@axionet.com](mailto:aesnead@axionet.com))

Andrew Happer ('96 MECH) was married to Micheline Debney on June 27<sup>th</sup> in Abbotsford, BC. Kevin Oldknow ('96 ENPHYS) recently relocated to Vancouver from Toronto, Ontario, as he will be pursuing his M.A.Sc. at U.B.C. On a sadder note, alumnus Dr. Clarence (Sammy) Sutherland (Samis) passed away on March 8, 1998, in Victoria, BC. Dr. Sutherland was a Professor (Emeritus) who moved to Vancouver in 1945 and was a U.B.C. professor until he retired in 1977. If you have any other information that you would like to have noted in this section of the newsletter, then please let me know.

## **Fraternity Formal**

The Annual Theta Chapter Formal was held at the Irish Heather restaurant in Vancouver on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Active and alumni members were joined by their spouses/girlfriends for some good wholesome Guinness stew. The Supreme Council Meeting was also being held that day in Vancouver, so the Supreme Council members joined the group for dinner.

## **Mary Gillespie Memorial Achievement Award**

This award was created almost two years ago by the Alumni chapter. The purpose of the award is to provide financial assistance to a Theta Active member who exemplifies fraternal involvement, scholastic achievement and financial need. The award was presented for the second year running at the Fraternity Formal - Don Nash was the successful recipient. The monetary funds for the award are generated from the accruing interest on a GIC.

## **Green Slime Party**

Green Slime was served at the house on March 13<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the luck of the Irish. The fwat house was packed with eager partygoers dancing to the tunes of the live band that "Played for Beer."

## **Abe Lighthall Memorial Bursary**

The Lighthall Memorial Bursary is a \$150 annual award that has been funded by our chapter since the early 1970's. The award is in the memory of Abe Lighthall, a member of the Department of Civil Engineering from 1920 to 1945, who played a significant role in the development of Sigma Phi Delta. The bursary is presented by U.B.C. to a male engineering undergraduate student of the university. The primary criterion for obtaining the award is the applicant's financial need; scholastic standing is also considered.

Alumnus, Al Nemetz, has volunteered to have The Nemetz Foundation endow the existing annual bursary. The Foundation has contributed \$5000 to U.B.C. which will provide an annual \$300 award perpetually for as long as U.B.C. exists.

It was decided that the successful recipient should be somewhat involved in their faculty, engineering club or engineering society. Therefore, the award criteria was changed so that the Faculty of Applied Science must recommend a student who shows leadership in student affairs. Consideration is still given to scholastic standing and the financial circumstances of the recipient. As the focus of the award has shifted to volunteer activities rather than financial circumstances, the award can no longer be called a bursary; it is now termed the "Lighthall Memorial Award."

The proposed changes still have to be passed through U.B.C. Senate. There is a likelihood that the changes to the award will not be accepted due to the fact that the recipient still has to be a male engineering undergraduate. Therefore, if the proposed modification doesn't pass through Senate, then the award will remain a bursary and the Nemetz Foundation will have to make annual \$300 contributions.

## **Annual General Meeting**

This year's annual general meeting (AGM) was held on March 20<sup>th</sup> at the fwat house. Nine alumni members discussed several issues with seven upcoming graduates and the house manager. One issue was that some alumni have busy December schedules and they find it difficult to attend the annual Christmas Cocktail Party. Therefore, in addition to this party, it was decided to hold a summer BBQ. The first BBQ will take place in the summer of 1999 and will be an opportunity for alumni and their families to meet.

In the past, there has been a \$20 dues fee for all non-retired alumni members. The dues were used

for the chapter's \$400 to \$600 annual operating budget. The chapter's expenses consisted of funding the Lighthall Bursary, National dues, postage and photocopying. Members would receive semi-annual issues of the alumni newsletter in return for their "dues" contribution. Only a small portion of the alumni members paid dues each year.

As the burden of the Lighthall Memorial Bursary/Award has been eradicated from the operating budget, the chapter's operating costs have decreased. Consequently, it was decided that dues should no longer be collected from members; however, members are encouraged to make voluntary donations. Each year, the donated funds will be applied toward basic operating costs. Any additional donations will be applied to the House Maintenance and Improvement Fund. Last year, the dues were \$20 per member. It is suggested that a \$20 donation be made for the 1998/99 fiscal year. Cheques can be mailed to Brent Dozzi and made payable to "Sigma Phi Delta Vancouver Alumni Chapter." Donations may also be made at this year's Christmas Social.

We are presently looking into having a house inspection completed of the frat house. This inspection will inform us of any upcoming repairs and maintenance that must be completed. Therefore, we are still looking for donations to build up the House Maintenance and Improvement Fund. It is only a matter of time when we will be faced with a large bill to have the roof repaired or some other expensive job.

The minutes of the AGM are available on our chapter's web site (<http://www.sigphi.org/vancouver>). You can also contact me to obtain a hard copy.

### **Camping Trip**

The annual camping trip was held on the first weekend of May. About twenty actives and alumni camped under the stars at 20-Mile Bay on

Harrison Lake. Everyone tried their hardest to finish the five kegs of beer, but to no avail, there were still two left over (see picture). Maybe next year...



### **Joint Province Convention**

The convention was held from July 30<sup>th</sup> to August 1<sup>st</sup> in Vancouver with Theta Chapter as the host. Events included a barbecue at the chapter house, a plant tour of CREO Products, a visit to a salmon hatchery and a banquet in U.B.C. Botanical Gardens. In addition, Richard Hancock was initiated as an Honorary Member of the fraternity.

National is creating a new paid intern position (\$2,500 USD/term) for a person to handle administrative duties, merchandise, forms and data on the web site. National is also offering grants to chapters for expansion efforts.

Alpha Chapter is hosting next year's convention in Los Angeles. In addition, the fraternity's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is in 1999 – 75 years since the initiation of Alpha Chapter. Alpha Active Chapter and Los Angeles Alumni Chapter members have already started the planning for the largest-ever Sigma Phi Delta reunion. They are tentatively planning for 500 to 800 people to attend the convention banquet. Check out the January newsletter for more information on the events planned for this special anniversary.

The minutes of the convention are available on National's web site.

## **Neighbourhood BBQ**

On August 20<sup>th</sup>, the active chapter held a BBQ at the house and invited all of the neighbours. This event had numerous alumni show up as well. We were able to impress the neighbours with our culinary skills and handiwork around the house.

## **THE PRESENT**

### **Active Chapter**

Theta Active chapter is thriving in the new academic year as relations with neighbours around the fwat house have improved greatly. The alumni can still join the actives in the Hamburger hockey league (contact Cam Reeves at 224-7235). InstaBeer is still in operation at the fwat house with the refrigeration of beers and access controlled by personal, computerized PIN numbered accounts. If you are interested in having an account, then you can contact Cory ("Chia") at 224-7235.

The actives have been busy financing their own house renovations over the summer. The walls and ceiling in the meeting room were torn out and re-built. Plywood was installed behind the drywall in order to prevent any holes forming. The walls in the upstairs hall were repainted. The upstairs bathroom floor was re-tiled and the ceiling was redone. The front porch was torn apart and completely re-built. Lanterns were installed by the front garden hedge. A heavy-duty workshop was set-up in the shed – complete with electrical outlets.

Although, a lot of renovations were completed this year, there are still a number of areas where updating is required. The roof needs a thorough inspection and the shingles on the south side of the

house need repairs. In addition, the very NOISY downstairs fan needs replacement.

The fwat house is still located at 4586 West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Feel free to drop in on active chapter meetings on Wednesdays from 7:30 p.m.

### **Alumni Chapter Executive**

Brad Hawthorn stepped down as President and a re-election was completed at the AGM. Kevin Deane-Freeman ('95 ELEC) was elected as our new president. Roger Pettersson was elected as the House Liaison; this position is responsible for ensuring that the fwat house is looked after and maintained. In addition, the members elected Heiko Epkens as Social Co-ordinator. This new position was created to decrease the burden of organizing the Christmas Cocktail Party. The executive positions are as follows:

President: Kevin Deane-Freeman  
10271 Gilmore Crescent  
Richmond, BC  
V6X 1X1  
(604) 270-4265  
[kevindf@home.com](mailto:kevindf@home.com)

Secretary: Andrew Happer  
#201 - 8665 Osler Street  
V6P 4E6  
Vancouver, BC  
(604) 261-5345  
[ahapper@ibm.net](mailto:ahapper@ibm.net)

Treasurer: Brent Dozzi  
112 Clearview Drive  
Port Moody, BC  
V3H 2S8  
(604) 461-4814  
[bdozzi@vines.gems.gov.bc.ca](mailto:bdozzi@vines.gems.gov.bc.ca)

House Liaison: Roger Pettersson  
Coquitlam, BC  
(604) 831-1991

[rpettersson@clearnet.com](mailto:rpettersson@clearnet.com)

Social Co-ordinator: Heiko Epkens  
#302 – 1928 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave.  
Vancouver, BC  
V6J 1J3  
(604) 732-9144

### **House Maintenance & Improvement Fund**

We are always accepting voluntary donations to the House Maintenance and Improvement Fund. This fund enables us to repair and upgrade the Theta Chapter house while keeping rental rates for student residents at rates comparable to on-campus housing. We seek your continued support for this fund to assist in maintaining affordable, good quality Chapter housing for Active members and provide for the continuation of an Active Chapter of Sigma Phi Delta at U.B.C. Contributions can be mailed to Brent Dozzi or brought to any of the sponsored functions (i.e. the Chief's Birthday Party or Christmas Cocktail Party).

### **Internet**

The national web page is at <http://www.sigphi.org> and the Theta Chapter page is at <http://www.sigphi.org/theta>. Kevin Deane-Freeman has set-up a web site for the Vancouver alumni chapter at <http://www.sigphi.org/vancouver>. If you would like a short biography of yourself on the web site, then send text to Kevin. In addition, you can submit any photographs of alumni events that you would like to have displayed on the web site.

You will notice that if you have an email address, you will have received this newsletter via e-mail. Otherwise, you will have received this correspondence in the regular post. If you would like to receive this by e-mail, then please forward your e-mail address to Andrew Happer. Please note that e-mail speeds up the delivery and reduces

the cost of the newsletter. With an active e-mail address, you will also receive updates about upcoming events on a regular basis. Nevertheless, we will still be mailing out correspondence to those who aren't Internet-prone.

### **National**

The Grand Old Man, Dr. Robert J. Beals, has resigned from the position of Executive Secretary after more than 50 years of service to the Executive, but will continue on the Board of Directors of the Sigma Phi Delta Foundation. He has been replaced by Ed Hurst ('85 ALPHA) from Oakton, Virginia. Ed is also the Information Systems Manager. Anyone interested in helping out with the duties of Executive Secretary should contact Ed or Grand President Paul Lindner.

The election of province officers for the biennium 1999-2000 was held at the recent convention. Benjamin Prins ('93 CHEM & THETA) was re-elected as the Western Province Councillor. John Tighi ('92 ALPHA) was elected as the Western Province Secretary.

National is still looking for members who would like to serve as Deputy Province Councillor for Expansion in the Western Province. This member would be responsible for the expansion program along with the Grand Vice President. If you are interested, then please contact GVP Scott Everett or GP Paul Lindner.

Sigma Phi Delta has a new toll-free number that is linked to the Executive Secretary's Office: 1-877-SIGPHIS (1-877-744-7447). National's monthly newsletter is also available at <http://sigphi.org/announce.htm>.

### **Chief's Biography**

The active chapter is compiling a biography of Mary Gillespie and is requesting alumni members to submit stories about their experiences with the "Chief." We have received a couple of

submissions from alumni at this point and are hoping to get more material for this historical composition.

As Ms. Gillespie has passed away, most active members have not had the opportunity to meet her and some barely know anything about her. A biography would provide to be an excellent source of chapter history that could ensure her memory is not forgotten for future generations of active chapter members. You can e-mail or mail submissions to Andrew Happer.

### **Paraphernalia**

For anyone interested in Theta clothing and accessories, there are black baseball caps available with '♣' emblazoned on the front and a '□' with a maple leaf on the back (\$15). In addition, 32 oz. ceramic mugs are available with the Sigma Phi Delta coat of arms, your name and graduation year imprinted on the sides (\$26). Theta Active chapter T-shirts with the fwat rat are available for \$15. In addition, black alumni T-shirts can be purchased for \$25; the proceeds from the alumni T-shirts go towards the House Maintenance and Improvement Fund.

You may contact the Active Chapter at 224-7235 for ordering a mug, rat T-shirt or hat; however, you should contact Roger Pettersson at 831-1991 for

obtaining an alumni T-shirt. These items should be available at the upcoming Cocktail Party.

### **THE FUTURE**

#### **Chief's Birthday Party**

The celebration of the Chief's birthday will take place on Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 p.m. Yes, that's the long weekend! However, as the Chief was born on the 13<sup>th</sup>, her birthday will be at this time of year every year! There was poor attendance at this function in the last two years. So, let's try and make this year's party one to remember! The actives are hosting the party at the chapter house and will serve dinner. It's an excellent opportunity for alumni to meet the actives, meet the upcoming pledges and learn what's been happening around the house. We are all brought together by a common tie with our house mother - who passed away on November 11, 1994.

#### **Christmas Cocktail Party**

The annual cocktail party will likely be held on the first weekend of December at Scott and Christa Groves residence in Surrey, BC. Invitations will be sent out in the near future with the correct date. The cost of this event will be \$20/member or \$30/couple.

I hope you enjoyed this edition of the newsletter. If you have any comments or suggestions, then please feel free to contact me. I look forward to seeing you all in the next couple of months!



Andrew Happer, Chapter Secretary  
Sigma Phi Delta, Vancouver alumni

