



# Sigma Phi Delta Fraternity

## Vancouver Alumni Chapter

### THE ALUMNIFLIER

September 2001

Dear Alumnus

Well, for those who might have been placing bets that a newsletter would never be released two years in a row, you are officially a few dollars poorer. Welcome to the 2001 Alumniplier, random publication of the Vancouver Alumni Chapter of Sigma Phi Delta. It is the goal of this newsletter to keep informed, all alumni of Sigma Phi Delta, Theta Chapter and other alumni currently living in BC. For those of you who have been actively using email, to conserve expenses and paper, this newsletter will only be sent in soft copy to all who are able to receive it. If you would prefer this newsletter in another format, please contact Edmund Gin, Alumni Secretary at the contact info given below.

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#### **Fraternal Tidings**

Joining the Vancouver Alumni from Theta Class of 2001...

- Bryce Bendickson (MECH) -- Currently working for a military contracting firm
- Josh Brewster (MMPE) -- getting his commercial pilot's license and intends to work for an air cargo transport firm

Andrew and Micheline Happer welcomed the addition of Ethan Andrew Happer on April 12th, 2001, at the B.C. Women's Hospital in Vancouver,

weighing in at 8 lb & 11.5 oz. The Happer family will be moving to Edmonton this fall.

Scott and Christa Groves, became the proud parents of Devon Thomas Groves, February 28, 2000.

Devon weighed in at 21 inches, 7 lbs.5 oz.

Roger Petterson wrote to inform us that he married Sharon Light September 2000

Passing to the Castle Eternal are Frank "Bud" Bacon (CHME1944), initiated 1940 passed December 2000. Alvin Nemetz passed May 2, 2001. Al Nemetz had recently become benefactor of the Abe Lighthall Bursary, and our sympathies and gratitude

go to his Wife Shiela. The Alumni Chapter was recently informed that Brother Nemetz bequested a sum of \$1000 to the Active Chapter.

If you have any other information that you would like to have noted in this section of the newsletter, then please let us know ([Vancouver@sigphi.org](mailto:Vancouver@sigphi.org)).

## Member Database

In an effort to streamline operations with National, and to reduce the possibility of creating questionable or inaccurate information, the Vancouver Alumni Chapter has merged its membership database with National's. This was completed at the end of May, and since June 1st, we have been solely using National's database on the Cybercastle, at <http://www.sigmaphidelta.org>.

As such, we would like to ask that you confirm your information on the Cybercastle. This can be done by going to <http://www.sigmaphidelta.org> and selecting the link labelled "Enter the Castle", and then entering the requested information. If you have not previously logged in, then your password is your General Number. If you have forgotten your password, please contact the Executive Director, Bob Featheringham, at [execdir@sigmaphidelta.org](mailto:execdir@sigmaphidelta.org), and he will be able to assist you. After logging in, the first page shown to you should be your personal information page - please confirm or correct the information shown; any changes made will be saved instantaneously upon clicking on the "Continue" button.

On the Cybercastle, there is also a search function, which can be used to locate Brothers. If you know the information of any Brother to be incorrect, please forward the updated information to the Executive Director or to myself, and we will ensure the information is updated on the Cybercastle.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at [vancouver@sigmaphidelta.org](mailto:vancouver@sigmaphidelta.org)  
Thank you for your cooperation!

Fraternally,  
Edmund "Ead" Gin

## Coming Events

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

This years' celebration of the Chief's Birthday will be held again at the Frat House, 4586 W 6<sup>th</sup> Ave, On Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. Dinner starts at 6pm sharp, as any former house rat must still remember. All fraternity members are encouraged to drop by, to help remind the young actives who really ran the place for so many years :)

### **Christmas Cocktail Party**

This year's annual Christmas social is tentatively planned for Sunday Dec 2, or Sunday December 9. The exact date will be at the convenience of our host. At the moment, the host is not known. If any alumni should wish to volunteer their home for the party, please contact Heiko Epkens or Kevin Deane-Freeman. All food and drink will be provided, drinking glasses rented. As host, you are expected to relax, and enjoy the party, without getting stuck with all the work. Due to rising costs, we will have to be raising the price for the even to cover food and drink. The cost this year will be \$25 per person, \$40 per couple. When we have a confirmed host, and date, invitations will be sent out via email and some by surface mail with details, and maps.

### **70th Anniversary Celebrations**

As it is the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Theta Chapter here in Vancouver, something more extravagant is called for instead of this years' Formal. Tentatively, this event is scheduled for March 9, 2002. Plans include booking a banquet hall for a formal dinner. We are looking to gather numbers of interested parties as soon as possible. More information will follow as arrangements are made. Any Alumni who plan to attend, please contact Edmund Gin for more information. As this is a more involved planning process, it is likely that deposits will be required in advance of the event. I hope that most of you will consider attending.

Ed Hurst Provided this Castle Article from 1932:

### *"Tau Lambda Enjoys Successful Year"*

by Jack Cummings, Tau Lambda  
University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B. C.,  
March 31, 1932

Since the beginning of the fall term, Tau Lambda has undergone a very gratifying program of expansion, increasing its membership from sixteen actives, in September, to twenty-five actives and three pledges at the present time.

Towards the end of November, a very enjoyable informal party was held at the home of Brother Wilson, at which several men were entertained, including Mr. A. B. Lighthall, honorary president of the fraternity, and Dacre Scott, Alpha of Sigma Phi Delta. Some twenty couples were present in all.

Tau Lambda held its annual formal on February 2nd, at the Point Grey Golf Club, approximately thirty couples being in attendance. The guests of the evening were Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Lighthall, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, and Dacre Scott.

The engineer's ball, which was held at the Commodore Cabaret this year, owed much of its success to the tasteful decorating and novelties supplied by Brothers McLaurin, Madsen, Givins, Munro and Somerton. Block attendance at the annual presentation of the University Players' Club was culminated by dancing at the home of Brother Givins.

Another very enjoyable party was held at the home of Brother Darling, about fifteen couples being present. A number of noontime singings have been indulged in by members of the Science Men's Undergraduate Society during the year, at which Brothers Madsen, Darling and Somerton afforded music.

Tau Lambda has been represented on the senior rugby team this year by Brothers Ernest Brown and Ernest Casswell, and on the senior city rugby team by Richard King. Brothers Ronald Wilson and Bill Moffatt have been active members of the swimming team, while Pledge Alf. Allen has done good work on the track team.

At the class elections this spring, Brother Saunders was elected president of the graduating class for the coming year, and Brother Munro was elected permanent secretary-treasurer of the graduating class of 1932. This year will see the graduation of the following men, Brothers Carre, Bews, Givins, McLaurin, Madsen, Munro, Somerton and Wood.

As the spring examinations approach, activities of all kinds are being curtailed in favour of studies. Tau Lambda is at the present time well in the running for the Honis Cup for the highest fraternity average, and all members are turning their efforts towards making its possession a reality.

## Awards AND Bursaries

### **Mary Gillespie Memorial Achievement Award**

This year, award given in honour of 'The Chief', Mary "Mrs G" Gillespie, was presented at the Fraternity Formal to Chad "Big Daddy" Brown. This award is given on the basis of scholastic achievement as well as level of involvement both in the Chapter, and in Extra-Curricular University Activity.

### **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.

Currently the award has been funded by Alvin Nemetz, via his charitable Foundation. Due to his passing earlier this year, the alumni is forced to investigate other options. Brother Nemetz prepaid enough to cover the 2001/2002 year, after which we hope to have a new funding plan in place. Brother Kevin Deane-Freeman has been in touch with the

Awards and Financial Assistance at UBC, for information on the handling of these changes. Since it is always difficult to allocate \$150 per year, given the already strained budget, the possibility of altering the award to an endowment, paid out on the interest born from a fixed principal is being considered. With this option, if allowed by UBC senate, will give alumni the option of making a tax deductible contribution to UBC for this award. The Alumni Chapter will also consider the feasibility of administering the award directly, thus directing the funds to an appropriate Active Fraternity Member. More information will be sent out via the email list, and future newsletters as it becomes available. We would also like to invite Alumni to donate to this fund presently, so that when arrangements are made, there will be funding in place. Please contact Kevin Deane-Freeman, or Brent Dozzi.

### Alumni Chapter Finances

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).

<u>LEDGER</u>	<u>DEBIT</u>	<u>CREDIT</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>
Operating Account			
• Opening Balance			383.47
• Mary Gillespie Award	\$150.00		
• Dues	\$300.50		
• Service Charges	\$30.00		
• Xmas Social Supplies	\$701.15		
• Xmas Social		\$520.00	
• Society Filing Fee	\$100		
• Closing Balance			<u>(\$378.18)</u>
House Account			
• Opening Balance			(\$2770.51)
• Household Insurance		\$1903.00	

• Property Taxes		\$7452.08	
• Household Insurance	\$1903.00	\$117.50	
• Household Insurance	\$1903.00		
• Property Taxes	\$2412.07		
• Closing Balance			<u>\$2387.00</u>
Maintenance Account			
• Opening Balance			\$3962.20
• Donations		\$969.70	
• Closing Balance			<u>\$4931.90</u>
Total			<u>\$6940.72</u>

<u>BALANCE SHEET</u>		
<u>ASSETS</u>		<u>LIABILITIES</u>
Land	\$676,000.00	
Improvements	\$68,700.00	
Canada Trust Account	\$6940.72	
Ethical Fund	\$12,637.98	
Total	<b>\$764,278.70</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

### Active Chapter House (Da Haus)

There once was an old Haus in Kits. The neighbours said it looked the --its. Wait a minute that's not how that rhyme goes.??

Anyway, nowadays thanks to a lot of effort on the part of the active members and alumni of da Fwat, da Haus is looking pretty good. A few years ago we hired a professional building inspector to look the place over and give us some pointers. Well, all of his major concerns have been addressed and now it's just a matter of keeping up the maintenance and making comfort improvements. For example, over the last year the actives have improved the drainage around the house, completed a pantry (or coolroom) downstairs and have repainted the porch and some of the interior of the house.

Structurally the old girl is holding her own. The plan is still to do the roof in about 5 years or so, but

that should be the only major thing on the horizon and the funds for this will come out of a mutual fund the actives have set up themselves.

Since the actives have enough money in the house account to pay for their own day to day repairs and set up a mutual fund for long term projects, it is obvious that their financial situation is quite stable. However, there still remains a large sum that is owed to da Haus from current alumni who have left it with a debt. For most individuals this is only a small sum. Let's say around \$300 or so. Unfortunately, the grand total of this debt is about \$8,300. Sadly, this would pay for almost half of a brand new roof. Let's pay up. Waddaya say guys? Is it really fair for a bunch of unemployed trouble-makers to carry our debt for us? We've all been in their shoes whether we choose to admit it or not. Let's cut these kids some slack, eh?

I really think that with some continued contact with us old farts those little pukers will be ok. I am extremely proud of what they've done with the place and get all misty-eyed and thankful when I think about how that old house and the bond of the brothers that seem to have always lived in it has brought us all together over time.

Martin Froehling  
Haus Alumni Liason

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.

## SPD Web Hosting and Email

Show your pride in the Fraternity by having your very own Sigma Phi Delta Web Identity, while also contributing to the Fraternity's expansion effort! Now you can have your own "@sigphi.org" or "@sigmaphidelta.org" email address, as well as your own personal Web site space on the SigPhi server (up to 30 megabytes) with individual FTP access, all for the low cost of only \$5US per month (billed annually). 50% of proceeds will be directed to the Sigma Phi Delta Expansion Fund. The remaining

50% will be directed to the General Fund, to help maintain the Fraternity's Internet connection and Web server upgrades.

[http://www.sigphi.org/cgi-win/cybercastle/login?subscribe\\_hosting](http://www.sigphi.org/cgi-win/cybercastle/login?subscribe_hosting)

## National Update

The past several months have been extremely active ones for the National Office of Sigma Phi Delta. It's with a great sense of excitement that I am writing to inform you of several happenings that will doubtless shape the future of our Fraternity.

First, a quick update from this year's General Convention: The convention was held at Kappa Chapter in Angola, Indiana from July 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> and was well attended by actives and alumni. The format was a great mix of business and social activities, and everyone in attendance enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones. As many of you already know, Paul Lindner (Delta Alumnus) will be stepping down from the position of Grand President at the end of his current term. Paul has been a National Officer for 10 years, and has led the fraternity with unparalleled enthusiasm and dedication. Elections for the office of Grand President were held at the General Convention, and congratulations are in order for Derek Troy (Alpha Alumnus), who will be leading the Fraternity into the next phase of our history. Derek is also an experienced Supreme Council member, having served as Executive Secretary until the appointment of Bob Featheringham as Executive Director (which incorporates the position of Executive Secretary).

On a related note, this year the Provinces will meet in an individual "Province Retreat" format, versus the Joint Province Convention format that has been used recently. The Province Retreats will somewhat less formal than General Conventions or Joint Province Conventions, with a focus on training and a goal of reaching as many Active members directly as possible. For this reason the retreats will be held during the academic year, while Actives are in school. Vancouver Alumni members are

encouraged to attend the Western Province Retreat. Dates and location are TBD, but a broadcast message will be sent out as soon as they are determined.

Second, the Sigma Phi Delta expansion train continues to roll. In the words of Grand Vice-President Keith Hileman (Kappa Alumnus): “They can’t stop us. They can only hope to contain us.” In the Western Province, an effort is being led out of the San Francisco Bay Area to re-activate an Alumni Chapter there, as well as Nu Chapter at Berkeley. With these chapters in place, the distance between chapters in the Western Province will be reduced which will lead to more inter-chapter activities and a stronger base for continued expansion.

And, if you haven’t already heard, Sigma Phi Delta is going TRANSOCEANIC. We have a vision to turn this Fraternity into a Global organization, reaching Engineers around the world and helping them to lead successful careers through the instillation of our ideals. To this end, we recently held a ceremony to recognize a Sigma Phi Delta Interest Group (similar to a colony) at BUET in Bangladesh. These dedicated young men are working to establish themselves as the first chapter of Sigma Phi Delta outside of North America. The challenges are significant, both for the candidates at BUET and for the National Office, but the Fraternity is working to give these men the support that they need to realize their goal.

Third, the position of Executive Director is up and running. The mandate to create this position was established at the Joint Province Convention in the summer of 2000, held at Eta Chapter in Milwaukee. The position of Executive Director is the first ever full-time paid position within the National Office of the Fraternity. It incorporates the positions of Executive Secretary, Circulation Manager and Merchandising Manager, as well as having a focus on Expansion and Fundraising activities (with

specific targets in these areas). A search committee was formed, and in April of this year we interviewed several excellent candidates for the position. The result of this process was the appointment of Bob Featheringham (Lambda Alumnus) to the position of Executive Director. Bob has now been in the position for several months and many of you will have seen his monthly status reports outlining the work to date. This position is a key one, as we aim to take the Fraternity to the “next level” through aggressive expansion. The position will handle the increase in administrative work as the fraternity grows, as well as playing a pivotal role in the expansion and fundraising efforts needed to sustain our organization.

Finally, a brief note on some of the other happenings at the National Level. As Paul Lindner wrote in his report to the General Convention this year, “there are no sacred cows in this Fraternity”. We are in the process of conducting an exhaustive review of our Constitution and Statutory Code, as well as key items such as the way in which we recruit National Officers and collect Funds for the operation of the Fraternity. The only things that we will not stray from are our core values and ideals, embodied in the Object and the Code of Ethics of the Fraternity. These things provide the bedrock on which all else is laid, and will continue to define our reason for being in perpetuity. Everything else is fair game.

In summary, these are exciting times for the Fraternity. We are pursuing new opportunities in an attempt to grow and prosper as never before. If you have any questions regarding the activities of the Fraternity at the National Level, or would like to get involved in these exciting projects, please feel free to contact me directly at [westernpc@sigmaphidelta.org](mailto:westernpc@sigmaphidelta.org).

Best Fraternal Regards,  
Kevin D. Oldknow  
Western Province Councillor

## Alumni Chapter Executive

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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 those who will attend the Christmas Social, and at the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner in the spring.



Kevin Deane-Freeman, Alumni Chapter President  
Sigma Phi Delta, Vancouver alumni