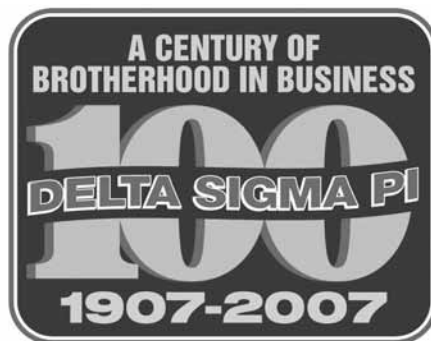


The History of Delta Sigma Pi: Celebrating 100 Years of Brotherhood

by James Prescott, *Loyola-Chicago*

1907 to 1914

It may seem so very long ago that Delta Sigma Pi was founded. It was a very different time of which the average person today knows very little. In fact, it was in a previous century and in a previous millennia that four young men decided to make a difference in their college community. Much has happened in the world since those early years of the 1900s, and much of what has happened has had an impact on Delta Sigma Pi. This impact at times was minor and of little note, and yet at other times challenged the very existence of our brotherhood. In many ways, the history of Delta Sigma Pi can be compared



to the history of the United States. Delta Sigma Pi was even impacted by U.S. history from the years prior to 1907.

As we begin our journey with Delta Sigma Pi, it should be noted every

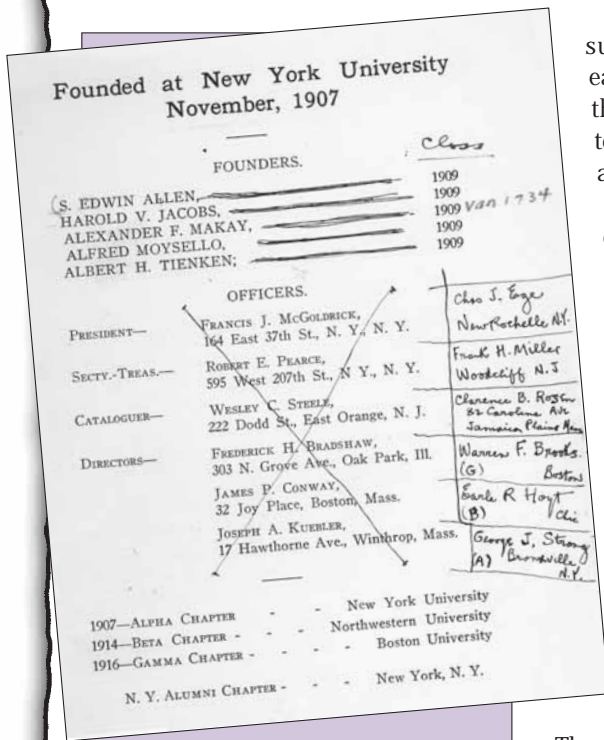
attempt has been made to tell the story, not just in an interesting way, but as accurately and completely as possible. Sometimes that was difficult due to the absence of credible historical artifacts or written documents. But at all times it was endeavored to tell it "as it was," which sometimes may conflict with individual personal recollections.

The Journey Begins

To begin our story we need to go back to the early 1900s. The Victorian Era had come to an end in 1901. The Era of Industrialization would soon be replaced by what has been called the Modern Era. (Decades later the 20th Century would come to be known as the "American Century," and Delta Sigma Pi would be nearing a century of existence.) In the autumn of 1906 there were only 46 states in the Union; Teddy Roosevelt was the 25th president of the United States. Traveling was done by train or boat. It was also the year of the Great San Francisco Earthquake. The Wright brothers had invented the airplane in 1903, but it would be years before it would be used for commercial purposes. Even the automobile was relatively new. Horse drawn carriages were more common, even in large cities, as the typical mode of local transportation. There was no home air-conditioning, no "talkies" (motion pictures did have sound provided by a live orchestra), radio and telephone had been around for a while, although few homes had them. People often look back on these years as a slower time, with none of the rush associated with life in the 21st century. All this, and much more, would slowly start to change.



Alpha Chapter members at their summer resort located at Sea Cliff, Long Island, N.Y. Front row: Harry Hertel, George Sinnott, Nicholas Ficker, Alfred Moysello and John Waldron. Back row: Louis Bruenner, Alexander Frank Makay, Walter Dean, and guests. (As identified on a photo displayed in the Buzz and Stonie Sutton Archives Room at the Central Office.)



In the 1917 Deltasig Directory, a fifth Founder's name appears—S. Edwin Allen. (In 1957, Harold Jacobs said "Charlie Cashmore" was one of the earliest "contributors"—who later joined Alpha Kappa Psi and then was "left out" of Delta Sigma Pi.) In the 1927 Deltasig Directory, four Founders, as we know them to be today, are listed—with no mention of S. Edwin Allen.

In 1906 there were only a handful of business schools in the United States, and one of these schools was the School of Commerce, Accounts, and Finance at New York University. This school offered a three-year evening program that led to the degree of Bachelor of Commercial Science. Classes met from 8:00–10:00 PM five nights a week. Most students worked during the day. In 1906 some 300 students were enrolled in this program, including four men who would soon come to know each other and start a new organization. These four young men, soon to be our Founders, were Alfred Moysello, Henry Albert Tienken, Harold Valentine Jacobs, and Alexander Frank Makay. They were part of the 70 member class of 1909.

As is typical of students even today, these four students met in class. They also took the same (recently built-1904)

subway route on their way home each night. When weather permitted they would walk from school south to the Brooklyn Bridge, a distance of about two miles.

These walks gave the students an opportunity to get to know each other and discuss topics of mutual interest. One topic that came up regularly was school affairs and the dominant position of one organization which had been started only a couple of years earlier. These four students, who were to become our four Founders, and other students, felt they had been ignored by this relatively new organization. The four decided they would do something about it and offer the student body some real alternatives. Their first efforts met with little success.

They had decided to form a club, open to all students, but the student body showed no interest. Not deterred, they once again approached the student body with the idea of forming a club, and once again they met with no success.

During 1907 the four were often accompanied by other students on their nightly walks, but one person accompanied them so frequently that, had things turned out differently, we might be remembering five individuals as Founders instead of four. Some members, over the years were actually told Delta Sigma Pi had five Founders, but it was this fifth person in the group, (Charlie Cashmore—according to Harold Jacobs in his 1957 recollections recorded by Homer Brewer and Jim Thomson.) who came close to becoming a Founder. The true story had been changed over time by telling and retelling and now differed from the facts.

It is true that while the future Founders were trying to convince the student body to start a club that this fifth person fell away from the group in order to join the very group he and the others were against. This other group was a fraternity and it is perhaps this event that caused the future Founders to modify their plans and offer the student body a fraternity instead of a club. And

so once again they approached the student body, but this time they asked if the students would be interested in a fraternity and they got a very enthusiastic reply. There were actually students who wanted to be initiated immediately but had to be turned away as there was no "official" organization for them to join!

Memorial Day ended the 1907 school year, but the future Founders met during the summer on weeknights and weekends to formulate their plans for a fraternity. Makay and Jacobs had been members of high school fraternities, so there was a basic idea upon which to build. These two were assigned the task of drafting a constitution, bylaws and a ritual. The first constitution of the new fraternity was finished at the Casino in Central Park, a restaurant managed by Jacob's father and a regular meeting place of the future Founders.

Search for a Name

In the fall of 1907, the Founders gave final approval to the new constitution, but their fraternity had no name. The official date of the founding of the nameless fraternity was November 7, 1907. Within years a controversy arose as to the founding date, and this controversy remains to this very day. But we'll save that for later!

The next order of business was election of officers. Alex Makay was elected the first president and Henry Tienken the first vice-president. Harold Jacobs and Alfred Moysello were elected treasurer and secretary respectively. Increasing their numbers was the next crucial task of this still nameless fraternity. They approached the class of 1909 and several new members were initiated. They then turned their attention to the class of 1910 and initiated several more.

While the recruitment of new members proved to be little problem, getting recognition from the school administration was not so fast in coming. In fact, when approached the dean of business turned down their request. He felt the business school wasn't large enough to support two fraternities. Nonetheless,

the nameless fraternity chose to continue to operate and initiate new members. By 1908 they had gained the support of a faculty member, Professor Lee Galloway, who was instrumental in the fraternity finally gaining official recognition from the dean.

The popularity of this new fraternity grew fast due in large part because Makay played varsity football and Jacobs played varsity baseball. This caused both of them to be well-known on campus which resulted in increased interest in their fraternity. But now it was finally time to decide on the name of the fraternity. In early 1908 the membership gave approval to the three words that best expressed the meaning of the fraternity and then had a friend of Founder Moysello translate those words into Greek. From those words the name of Delta Sigma Pi was chosen. Official approval of this name was voted on April 2, 1908. The Fraternity bylaws were also approved at this meeting. The design of the badge (or "pin" as some call it; hence the word "pinning") was approved soon thereafter. At the third official meeting of Delta Sigma Pi held on April 29, 1908, the official colors of the Fraternity were approved as purple and gold, winning over the colors of violet and gold. Some years later, although it has not yet been firmly established as to when or why, the colors were modified to "old gold and royal purple."



October of 1908 would also see the introduction of something absolutely indispensable to a fraternity: chapter dues and initiation fees. Yes, chapter dues and initiation fees have been with us almost from the very beginning! And so it was that chapter initiation fees of \$1.00 per member and \$.25 in dues per week per member were approved. A ritual had also been approved by this time. We know when the constitution, ritual, dues, initiation fees, and other items were approved, as they are included in the minutes of the original minute book of the founders. However, these minutes, covering various meetings, include virtually nothing in the way of discussion about these items. Only that they

were approved at a particular meeting. Thus, little is known about the various decisions made in the first year of our existence, and it would be many more years before any real effort was made to fill in these blanks. This would mean that many blanks would remain just that!

By 1909 the Fraternity was established and growing. The social program of the new brothers was also growing! Delta Sigma Pi at this point in time was primarily a social fraternity within the School of Commerce, Accounts and Finance (the concept of a professional business fraternity had not yet been established). Chapter members had begun renting a room in the Washington Square area of New York City, which was near the campus. This was the base of operations for the Fraternity for both chapter meetings and parties. Desiring to continue their fraternal involvement in the summer months, members began to rent a summer home at Sea Cliff, Long Island. This summer gathering, in which many brothers would come up for the weekend, continued for many years.

The four Founders graduated in 1909. Enough new members had been initiated by this time that the Fraternity would continue to grow and thrive. The Founders began their careers, but continued to be involved with "their" Fraternity as often as time and circumstances allowed. But time changes everything. In 1910 Henry Tienken left the United States to work for several South American businesses, returning to the U.S. only once before his death in 1949. Alfred Moysello continued to be involved in Delta Sigma Pi until his death in 1941. Harold V. Jacobs became estranged from the Fraternity he helped to found due to a change in the membership requirements, and only returned to active membership many years later. Alexander Makay continued his fraternal



Founder Henry Albert Tienken spent his entire business career in South America. He left the U.S. in 1910, shortly after his graduation from NYU, and only returned once (1919) before his death in 1949. He is buried in Oruro, Bolivia.

involvement until his death, and is the only Founder to serve on the national board of directors or on national committees.

The graduation of the Founders marked the passing of the torch to new members—members who were so new the Founders were much more than just names on a pledge test! These new members were ready for the task of continuing on. In 1911 a chapter newsletter began to be published "every other week" and was simply titled *DELTASIG*.



This newsletter got a name change in 1912 to *THE DELTYSIG* and was beginning to be published in a more professional style. Later the name would be changed to *The DELTASIG*, which is the name we know today for our national magazine.

1912 was also the year in which the Delta Sigma Pi Scholarship Key was established. This award was presented in those days to

the outstanding senior in the school of business. Soon after the 1914 installation of Beta Chapter this would become a national award presented at every business school at which there was an active

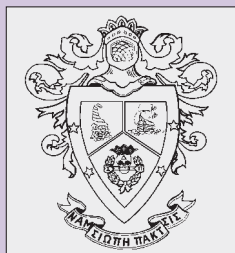
Evolution of the Coat of Arms



Take note of the 5th star at the top of the shield. The Fraternity's shield once had five stars! Founder Alex Makay, at the May 14, 1921 Board meeting: "Informed the meeting the stars on the shield represent the number of founders and since there were four founders, the present design with the five stars is basically inaccurate and should be changed." The Board agreed and authorized change of dies, stationery, etc. and directed Philip J. Warner (Alpha—second national president) to prepare an explanation for the chapters on what the shield stood for.



This is a sketch of the "officially approved" addition of the helmet. Note the Board member signatures at upper left, which include Alex Makay.



You may notice the letters on the old and new scrolls vary. In 1925, Gig Wright contacted a brother from Greece and a Greek language professor to check the words. They determined some of the words were misspelled (possibly from the scroll being redrawn many times). The words were fixed for the new Coat of Arms.

chapter of Delta Sigma Pi. Further, at least until the late 1920s, this award could be won by women. The rules were eventually changed so that this award would only be won by males. This is consistent with the prevailing sentiment of those times that fraternities were for men and sororities were for women. This concept carried over into such things as this award. With the change in later years in the membership regulations of Delta Sigma Pi that allowed initiation of women, the male-only restriction on this award was also dropped. The winners of this award (which included future Grand President H. G. "Gig" Wright and Executive Director Jim Thomson) received a "key" that was typically worn from a watch fob.



The First of Many Expansions

Around the time the Founders were graduating, another fraternity on a campus halfway across the United States was being organized. This fraternity was at the Northwestern School of Commerce in Chicago, a business school that was founded in 1908 and had a few hundred students. A group of these students desired to form their own fraternity and did so in 1910. The members of this Chicago fraternity had researched the history of the earliest commercial enterprises and in the process learned about the Hyksos Kings of Ancient Egypt. So they decided to call their fraternity the Hyksos Club and elected officers, approved a ritual, and immediately discussed plans to expand across the nation.

With expansion in mind, the members of the Hyksos Club contacted the few existing business schools in the country in order to determine if there were any local fraternities wishing to join them in creating a national Fraternity. Soon they were in contact with George Strong (Alpha #99) of Delta Sigma Pi. Correspondence carried on between these two fraternities for some time, centering on what changes each thought might have to be made to their laws and ritual in a union of the

two, or whether one fraternity should join the other as the second chapter of one or the other. Considering that the Hyksos Club was based on ancient Egypt instead of ancient Greece (as are most fraternities) the Hyksos had the biggest changes to accept if they joined Delta Sigma Pi.

At a meeting in 1914 at the LaSalle Hotel in Chicago, the Hyksos had a final discussion about joining Delta Sigma Pi. The vote was affirmative and Delta Sigma Pi at New York University was immediately notified about the decision. Soon thereafter, Alpha's George Strong and John J. Burke traveled from New York to Chicago and installed what was now to be called Beta Chapter of Delta Sigma Pi. These six brothers were the first official initiates of Beta Chapter of Delta Sigma Pi: James Civis (#146), Cathel Kerr (#147), John Bready (#148), Earl Bush (#149), Harold O'Connell (#150) and George Skurow (#151). With the installation of Beta Chapter on February 7, 1914, Delta Sigma Pi could now accurately call itself a national Fraternity. (Since Alpha Chapter had 145 members before the installation of Beta, it was decided to alternate numbers with Alpha.) A national organization had been created in January of 1914 in New York City—also the year the Great War began.

1915 to 1924

The next decade would be a period that would test Delta Sigma Pi and also see the growing influence of brothers from other chapters in determining the direction our Fraternity would take. In fact, when the Northwestern group agreed to join, it was one of those "once in a lifetime" type of decisions. Had Delta Sigma Pi not accepted them, or had some other group been chosen; or had the Hyksos said no, our history would be much different than we know it today! But the Northwestern group did say "yes" and within a few short years they began to have a great influence on the Ritual, policies, laws and character of Delta Sigma Pi.

The national organizational structure had been set up a month prior to the

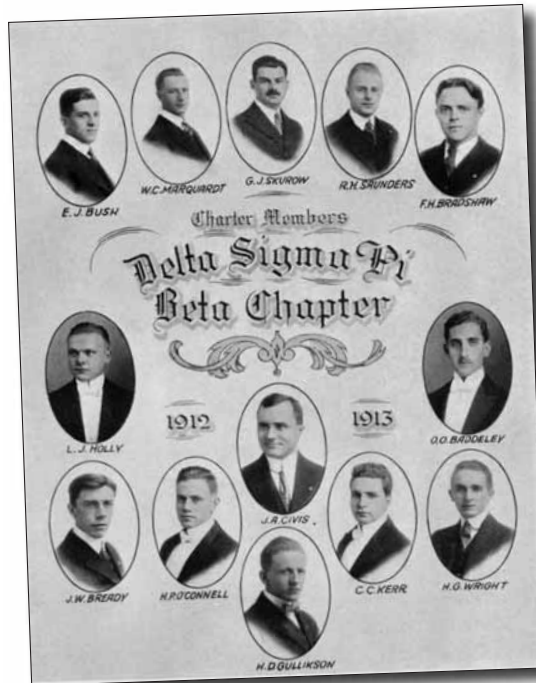
installation of Beta Chapter. The very first national officers of Delta Sigma Pi were elected at that meeting, and included the election of Walter N. Dean as national president and Henry C. Cox as secretary-treasurer. A three-member executive committee was also selected. The first items of business of the new National Fraternity consisted of legal issues (such as incorporating, authority over chapters, etc.); financial matters (what money would be needed to run the national, and where would that money come from); and what the role of the national leadership would be in general and specific terms in the development of Delta Sigma Pi.

It would be important that a formal meeting of the chapters be held to vote acceptance of this national organization as their national structure, as well as to approve the concept of the chapters gathering periodically to vote in elections and on legislative matters. Representatives of Alpha and Beta met in a joint session on July 31, 1914 at the Alpha Chapter house at 132 W. Fourth Street in New York City. This would later be recognized as the first Grand Chapter Congress. The very next day World War I started, but luckily had no immediate impact on Delta Sigma Pi.

Philip J. Warner was elected national president (it would be a several more years before the well-known "Grand"



An early Alpha Chapter house at 132 W. Fourth Street, New York City.



Northwestern brothers keep Deltasig growing as its second chapter. Note Henry Gilbert "Gig" Wright in the lower right corner.

terminology was introduced) at this meeting. A procedure was also adopted requiring each officer to resign after serving only one year of their three-year term. This practice was continued up until 1917 when the newly elected president served out a full three-year term (elected in 1915 was Henry J. Cox; and Francis J. McGoldrick in 1916). This policy was intended to make it easy for officers to serve, and would have the added benefit of not having someone in office for three-years whose interest had waned. It should also be noted that this whole idea of having a National Fraternity was rather new to Delta Sigma Pi and deciding what we should do and not do in those early years was not at all clear!

Membership Numbering Evolves

At the 1914 Congress of Chapters (as it would soon become known—remember, the term "Grand Chapter Congress" was still off in the future), the "national" numbering system mentioned earlier was officially approved and it was also decided the chapter name and initiation number would be engraved on the back of each badge, making identification of

lost badges easy. The numbering system was a form of identification and record keeping in which each initiate would be given a "national" number at the time of initiation, with each chapter alternating in groups of 20. Alpha Chapter had already used up numbers 1 through 145, so Beta Chapter was given the next 20 numbers for its first group of initiates (their charter members). By 1916, and the installation of Gamma Chapter at Boston, this numbering system was seen to be quite flawed and the "chapter" numbering system was approved to replace the national numbering system. However, the numbers issued to members of Beta Chapter in the national numbering system were never changed. Thus, there are no

members of Beta Chapter who have chapter numbers from 1 through 145. Engraving of chapter names and numbers on the backs of badges would remain a bit longer, but even this early tradition would eventually cease when time constraints and costs became too big of a challenge.

Two collegiate chapters were in attendance at the 1914 Congress of Chapters, Alpha and Beta. There were also Deltasig alumni present, who were referred to as the "graduate chapter." Official recognition was given to this group and rules governing what would be referred to as "alumni chapters" were established. The term "alumni chapter" was officially approved in 1917, but in the early 1920s this term was changed to "alumni clubs," a term which some older Deltasigs still use today. In 1982 the term "alumni chapter" was reinstated.

Between 1914 and 1920, decisions of one type or another were made either at a Board of Directors meeting, by the Executive Committee or at a "Congress of Chapters" in accordance with the rules in effect at that time. The national structure, along with the necessary rules and regulations needed to run an organization, were gradually coming into being. Committees had also been formed, with a report on expansion possibilities being presented to the

Executive Committee on January 29, 1915. It was decided at that meeting to pursue the expansion prospect at Boston University and to establish contact at numerous other universities around the country that had business schools.

Perhaps of greater significance at this 1915 meeting was the Executive Committee's approval of a statement of purpose for Delta Sigma Pi. This wording remained unchanged until the 1947 Grand Chapter Congress in Minneapolis, where the words "social activity" were added to our Purpose to more accurately represent the nature of the Fraternity.

In these early years, the Congress of Chapters was only two to three days long. The Grand Chapter Congress program, as we know it today, would be slowly developed over the next several decades, resulting in the lengthening of Congress. Development of national programs would often be slowed by limited financial resources. One such national program inaugurated in the 1920's was the Provincial Conference, which later became the Regional Conference, when the term Province was changed to Region. (The Regional Conference has been replaced today with the annual LEAD Provincial Conference.)

As the conflict in Europe continued, both the United States and Delta Sigma Pi were able to maintain "normality." This allowed the second Congress of Chapters to be held August 3-4, 1915 at the Hotel LaSalle in Chicago. This meeting still only had two collegiate chapters, but important decisions were made. The national president was authorized to establish a committee to develop a shield or coat of arms for the Fraternity. This committee consisted of a member of each collegiate chapter and the New York Alumni Chapter. It was also decided at this meeting to begin awarding the Delta Sigma Pi Scholarship Key at all schools where chapters had been started. Thus, the Delta Sigma Pi Scholarship Key became the first national award. At this Congress the membership category of Honorary Member was also approved



Addresses of note in our early history include: 1916-Alpha Chapter house, 132 West 4th Street, New York City (convention site); 1917-Beta Chapter house, 58 East Elm Street, Chicago; 1920-Beta Chapter house (left), 42 East Cedar Street, Chicago (owned by Deltasig House Corp., which donated proceeds of its eventual sale to the Delta Sigma Pi Leadership Foundation); and Wisconsin's Psi Chapter house (shown above), 132 Breese Terrace in Madison. Psi hosted our eighth Congress in 1926.

and several individuals were approved for such initiation.

Gamma was installed as the third chapter in 1916, and was able to participate in the third Congress of Chapters—held in New York City on August 28, 1916. This meeting dealt more with mundane issues such as approving an official jeweler, adopting uniform forms for the chapters and presentation of various reports. Remember, too, that the Central Office as we know it today would not even be created until a few years later, and would reach the current scope of services and activities only after World War II. Some Ritual matters were also discussed.

World War I Slows Progress

The fourth Congress of Chapters was held in Boston on September 10, 1917, just a few days after President Woodrow Wilson announced a conscription (military draft) would be immediately instituted. The Great War was coming home. The United States had entered the War only a few months earlier, on April 6th. It was at this 1917 Congress that a brother who would become a future legend of Delta Sigma Pi first made his presence felt. That brother was the delegate from Beta, Henry Gilbert "Gig" Wright. Brother Wright was known to be energetic, personable and full of



**A Deltasig book plate from 1926.

ideas. But Gig, as he soon would become known, would have to wait. Within just a few short months our three chapters were barely functioning as many of their members had enlisted or were drafted. Most national activities would also cease for the duration of the war. It would not be until 1920 (the War had ended in 1918) that we installed our fourth chapter. Only the strong desire of the brothers who had been initiated so far would keep the idea of Delta Sigma

Pi alive during the war and in the months afterward.

The first post-war Congress of Chapters was held on February 10, 1920, in New York City. All four Founders were in attendance, and so it became known as the Founder's Meeting. It would also be the last time that all four were in attendance at a Congress. By this time the three collegiate chapters and one alumni chapter had fully recovered from the effects of the war—the troops had come home and that meant people were going back to college. What was on everyone's mind at this meeting was expansion, although other items of business included the regular release of *The DELTASIG* magazine, uniformity in chapter operations, and usage of the Ritual.

Birth of Chicago Alumni Chapter

Another topic of discussion at this meeting was the formation of an alumni chapter in Chicago. By 1920, Chicago had long since been a transportation “hub” between the eastern, western and southern states. Chicago was also a growing financial center. As such, by 1920 not only were there many Beta Chapter alumni in Chicago but brothers from Alpha and Gamma as well. The reason for this being a topic at the Congress was that the status of “alumni” as it related to Delta Sigma Pi (and Beta Chapter in particular) had not been formally defined. Up to this point, alumni of Beta Chapter were considered “brothers” in the same way collegians were. With a growing number of Beta alumni, it would soon come to pass that alumni would have voting control over the collegiate chapter; and this was not the way things were supposed to be!

The solution was simple. Alumni were to be “active” through a local alumni chapter. Thus, the Chicago Alumni Association, as it was known at that time, came into being on September 12, 1921, becoming the second alumni chapter to be formed. The Chicago Alumni Chapter still holds the record (to this very day) as the longest continual Delta Sigma Pi franchise.



Beta Chapter at Northwestern-Chicago and the Chicago Alumni Chapter have played an incomparable leadership role in the history of Delta Sigma Pi. Here, some Beta brothers enjoy a moment of fellowship at a convention (year unknown).



Beta brothers representing their Deltasig House Corporation joined Leadership Foundation Chairman Greg Howell (front left) and Grand President Kathy Jahnke at a 2004 Beta House Corporation Meeting in Chicago. The Beta men donated proceeds from the sale of their chapter house—more than \$175,000—to the Leadership Foundation to endow a number of scholarships. At the meeting (front, from left): Howell, Mark O'Daniell and Vince Field. Back (from left): 2002 Lifetime Achievement Honoree Bob Mocella, Jack Metcalf, Jahnke, Virgil Needham, Jack Nikoleit, Jim Wills and Charlie Miller.

Gig Wright Emerges

Delta Sigma Pi was 13 years old in 1920. It was of great concern, in spite of the war, that we still only had three collegiate chapters. We had not rebounded as fast as other fraternities. Brother Gig Wright now returned to this discussion and so impressed the leaders of our very small Fraternity that he was made national president, the first time a non-Alpha brother had been elected. In fact,

no Alpha brother ever since has been elected Grand President (and only one other Beta-Brother Tom Mocella, elected 1971).

Gig would not disappoint! By the end of Brother Wright's first term as national president, a total of 18 new chapters would be installed, with eleven more during his second. The leadership that Gig displayed in those four years of his presidency earned him great respect



At the 20th Grand Chapter Congress (Detroit, 1955), Henry Gilbert "Gig" Wright retired after 31 years of service as Grand Secretary-Treasurer. Here, with his wife Alice and Past Grand President Howard Johnson, he admires his portrait which is still prominently displayed in the Central Office building.

within the Fraternity, but his service was just beginning. For now it is enough to say that had he not given the lengthy service he did, we would have a much different Fraternity today, if it had even survived.

From 1920 to 1926, Founder Alexander Frank Makay served on the National Board of Directors. 1920 was also an important year in the nation as the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was passed, prohibiting any state from denying a citizen the right to vote based on their sex. Women had gained the right to vote!

1921 would be another good year for the Fraternity. Although a Congress was not held that year (it was not established until 1942 that a Congress would be held in every odd-numbered year—in the 1930s Congresses were held every third year), a special meeting of the Board of Directors was held in New York City on May 14, 1921. One of the main items of business at this meeting was approval of the red rose as the official flower. This meeting also approved the design and use of the pledge button, which was later called the pledge pin.

Founding Date Defined

Interestingly, one of the issues at that meeting is one that continues to come up from time to time over the decades.

Although the exact nature of the question or reason for it being asked has been lost to history, one can speculate that it is simply due to human curiosity. The question asked "What was the founding date of Delta Sigma Pi?" Founder Makay, who was present at that meeting, informed the group the founding date was November 7, 1907. This was the first time in our recorded history that this question arose, but it was not to be the last. It would be asked again and again, most likely to learn why that particular date was chosen and what actually occurred on that date. We still have no solid answer!

The early 1920s saw many new traditions begun, not the least of which were songs of Delta Sigma Pi. Perhaps the very first song was *Yours Fraternally in Delta Sigma Pi*, written by Brother William F. Gregory of Theta Chapter (Detroit) and first introduced at a party held at the sixth Congress of Chapters in 1922 in Chicago. A contest for the best Fraternity song was conducted in the early 1920s, but *Rose of Deltasig* was later selected as the official Fraternity song (see page 13).

It was also at this Congress that president Gig Wright proposed dividing the chapters into geographical and administrative areas called districts and provinces. Provinces were then the equivalent to what would become known as regions. The names of the five provinces established were Eastern, Central, Southern, Missouri Valley and Western. Around 2000, the term "province" would return to mean several regions. This early division of the chapters into these geographical and administrative units would lead to the establishment of provincial conferences in the 1920s. These early provincial (and later regional) conferences were held only in those years in which Congress was not held.

Before leaving office, Wright recommended and got approval for what was referred to as "completing" the coat of arms. Up to that point the coat of arms consisted only of the shield and the scroll. It was felt that to conform to the rules of heraldry that a crest or visor had

to be added to the top of the shield, along with a mantle. Those changes give us the coat of arms we know today. Work was also being done on a great seal and a flag.

Gig Wright left the office of national president at the 1924 Congress of Chapters held in New York City. He was the first Deltasig to have two consecutive terms as national president (later, Grand President). Also, before he left office, discussion had already begun regarding the establishment of a formal national headquarters. Upon leaving office, Gig was offered (and accepted) employment as secretary/treasurer, empowered to rent offices in downtown Chicago. Previous secretary-treasurers operated from their homes, but the Fraternity had grown so much since 1920 that it made sense to establish a permanent national headquarters, the Central Office. This first headquarters was located at 222 W. Adams St. in Chicago. The original building, very near the present-day Sears Tower, has been demolished, with a modern office building bearing the same address put in its place.

1925 to 1929

The next several years would see some very interesting times—having more to do with what was going on in the nation and in the world than in the Fraternity itself. But the Fraternity would be significantly affected by the events that would come to shape the world as we know it today.

The Eighth Congress of Chapters was held at the Psi Chapter House in Madison, September 9–12, 1926. Psi (Wisconsin-Madison) had recently completed construction on their brand new house and was eager to show it off. It was a beautiful three-story structure with white columns on the front. This was one of the earliest Deltasig houses, and would be in operation as a chapter house until Psi Chapter became inactive many years later. This Congress of Chapters set an attendance record, with registration totaling 167. It was here that the familiar "Grand" terminology was approved. Hence, the national president

would be called the Grand President, the national chapter (the collegiate and alumni chapters in good standing) would be called the Grand Chapter, national officers would be Grand Officers, the Congress of Chapters would be the Grand Chapter Congress, the national board of directors would be the Grand Council, and the Secretary-Treasurer became the Grand Secretary-Treasurer. Most of these titles are still used today. This title embellishment was considered appropriate for a national organization and to help distinguish between national and chapter officers. Additional decisions made at this Grand Chapter Congress included the authorization to incorporate the Fraternity under the laws of the State of Illinois.

1926 also saw the creation of a report named Biennial Survey of Universities Offering an Organized Curriculum in Commerce and Business Administration. This was a survey, compiled at the Central Office, which was distributed to numerous departments of the United States Government, colleges and universities, and to individuals. Delta Sigma Pi used this survey to locate possible expansion prospects and build good will with our various constituencies. After the Delta Sigma Pi Educational Foundation was created in the mid-1950s, the funding for this was assumed by the Educational Foundation. The Fraternity provided this service until the 1990s when the information became commercially available from a number of sources.

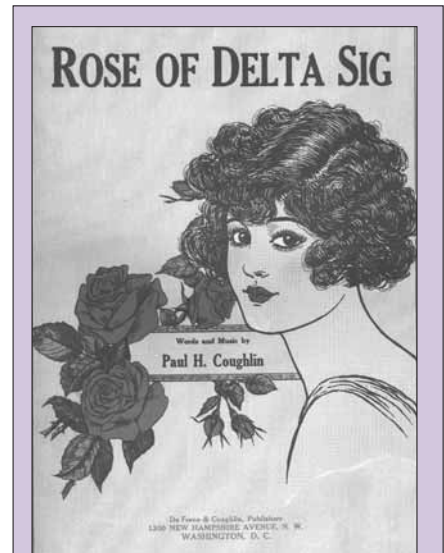
1926 was also the year the song *Rose of Deltasig* was adopted as the official song. This song was written by Brother Paul H. Coughlin of Mu Chapter at Georgetown, and was purchased for a contracted \$75 from Brother Coughlin. The "Rose" referred to in the song is the red rose, the official flower of Delta Sigma Pi, in which a comparison is being made between the Fraternity and the flower. A few years later this song was dedicated to Rose Jacobs, wife of Founder Harold Valentine Jacobs.



Interestingly, the November 1925 issue of *The DELTASIG* lists copies of the "Official Fraternity Song" for 50 cents each. But the song listed (on the inside back cover) is Deltasig's other song, *Yours Fraternally in Delta Sigma Pi*. The *Rose of Deltasig* apparently had not yet been written, but how *Yours Fraternally in Delta Sigma Pi* had come to be designated as the official Fraternity song in

1925 is not clear. Further, the back cover of that same edition of *The DELTASIG* solicited fraternity songs from across the nation for the purpose of creating an official fraternity song book. On page 30 is another short article soliciting songs about Delta Sigma Pi, in which can be found the offer of "suitable compensation" being made for any song accepted by the Committee on Songs. This, at least in part, explains why a payment was made for the *Rose of Deltasig* in 1926. In the February 1926 edition of *The DELTASIG*, the Committee on Songs reported a partial list of songs they had so far received: *Deltasig Campus Day*, *Rose of Deltasig*, *The Deltasig Gig*, *Back Again*, *My Deltasig Gal*, and *Delta Sigma Pi*. *Yours Fraternally* continued to be listed as the official Fraternity song both in this edition and in the May 1926 edition. By the end of the year this would change. A contest was held in which *Rose of Deltasig* was selected as the official song.

Delta Sigma Pi had been organized as a social fraternity at New York University. In 1928, we would take a large step toward formally becoming a professional fraternity when we became a charter member of the newly established Professional Interfraternity Conference. This organization would bring together the administrators of the professional fraternities from a wide spectrum of professions. Today it is known as the Professional Fraternity Association, of which Delta Sigma Pi is also a charter member. Over the years, Delta Sigma Pi has played a significant leadership role in this organization, with Gig Wright and Jim Thomson "running



Rose of Deltasig

Words and Music by Paul H. Coughlin,
Georgetown

Flow'rs that bloom in life's fair garden
Blossoming bring thoughts of life
and love,

You can see their petals falling
As the season's days roll by;
The fairest flower in the garden
Budding with a life that ne'er will die,
Is a flower that we love so dear,
The Rose of Delta Sigma Pi.

CHORUS:

Rose of Deltasig I love you,
Rose of Delta Sigma Pi,
When the shades of night are falling
I dream of days gone by;
As I go thru life's long journey
Memories will never die,
I will always hear you calling,
Rose of Delta Sigma Pi.

it" in early years—and Executive Directors Mike Mazur ('86-'87) and Bill Schilling ('99-'00) serving as elected presidents.

As the decade of the 1920s drew to a close, the Grand Council approved creation of the Delta Sigma Pi Scholarship Key Scroll, on which a chapter would annually record the name of the top academic business student from their school. The Scholarship Key Scroll is still in existence, with the Leadership Foundation now providing a Key annually.

Economic storm clouds were on the horizon, but almost no one could see

them. The 1920s were known as the Roaring Twenties, largely because the economy seemingly was on a roll. During this time, the nation saw the introduction of daylight savings, jazz, a shorter work week, and Wall Street speculation. Babe Ruth, Charles Lindbergh and Charlie Chaplin were household names. Bootleggers and gangsters were household words. And then came Black Friday, better known as the stock market crash of 1929. But the depression didn't hit everywhere at once—it gradually spread across the country and by the early 1930's was being felt by millions.

1930 to 1939

The early days of the Depression saw another Grand Chapter Congress. At this Congress, considerable discussion was held on the idea of establishing a Fraternity endowment fund. This discussion ultimately led to the creation, at the 10th Congress in Detroit (1930), of the National Endowment Fund and the Life Membership Program (not to be confused with the—much later—Life Member level of giving in the Delta Sigma Pi Leadership Foundation). Life Member #1 was assigned to the current Grand President Edwin L. Schujahn, and Life Member #2 was assigned to Gig Wright (Gig insisting the first number go to the elected officer). Numerous other Life Memberships were sold that provided the initial funds for the National Endowment Fund (NEF). But then the Depression really began to be felt and millions lost their jobs, with millions more under-employed. Soup kitchens sprang up all over the larger cities. Hopes that the new National Endowment Fund would grow rapidly soon faded in the face of economic reality.

As the U.S. economy began a downward spiral, no one could predict when bottom would be reached. The spiral continued until 1933 when the economy once again began to expand. But in 1937, this expansion halted and it seemed to many as though the depression lasted forever. Even the massive new federal programs that were part of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's "New Deal"



A plaque, noting the dedication of the Central Office to H.G. "Gig" Wright, Executive Director for 31 years, is displayed with pride in the building's foyer in Oxford, Ohio.

could not break the depression, which was as much a mental condition in the 1930s as it was an economic condition. It would take a war to end the Great Depression. But America was in the middle of a great pacifist movement in the 1930s, so it would take some great event, some terrible act to move the nation to war, and that great and terrible act came on December 7, 1941.

This was the state of things for Delta Sigma Pi in the 1930s. As part of the country, the culture, and the politics of the United States, we always have been and always will be impacted by the times in which we live. So, how was Delta Sigma Pi affected by the Great Depression? As a business, we were impacted in much the same fashion as any other business or family. Chapter finances (both local and Grand Chapter) tightened when membership decreased as a result of fewer men being able to go to college. It should be noted that it would be many more years before the GI Bill would come into being with its massive college program. In fact, 49% of college enrollment in 1947 was made up of veterans! But in the 1930s many who desired to go to college could not—

often for no other reason than having to stay at home to help support their family.

The notion of snobbery that fraternities and sororities have often been accused of stems from the idea that its members usually came from well-to-do families. The Great Depression caused a change in the social status of many and would have an impact on who would join the better "houses." Many chapters who had houses during the 1930s had to struggle to keep from losing them. Sometimes they did the unthinkable and took in boarders during the summer months to raise additional funds. While houses were usually owned by house corporations controlled by alumni, most chapter members would consider their chapter and their house to be a single entity. This usually made the problem of one the problem of the other. This fact alone would almost guarantee Deltasig houses would all but disappear by the 1990s. But in pre-World War II days, most Deltasig chapters either had houses or dreamed of having a house.

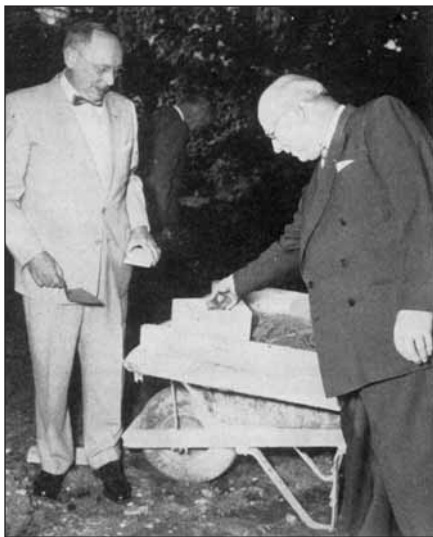
The Fraternity had installed over 50 chapters by 1929. However, only eight additional chapters were installed in the entire decade of the 1930s, and only two during World War II. In spite of the Great Depression, the Fraternity tried to operate as close to normal as possible. Grand Chapter Congresses, although shorter than Congresses of today, were still held. Geographical-based conferences were also held. *The DELTASIG* magazine was still published and new programs begun.

Great Depression or not, our Fraternity continued to operate. Collegiate chapters often had to scale back their programs. The Central Office, under the skillful hand of its Grand Secretary-Treasurer Gig Wright, kept operating expenses to a minimum. Since the National Endowment Fund had been started at such an inauspicious time, there was very little in the form of an endowment to make any difference on national finances. And with so few Life Memberships being sold, as well as conceptual shortcomings of the program, it would be decades before annual

membership sales would be in the hundreds, or the fund balance would reach a significant level.

The Chapter Efficiency Index is another Great Depression-era program—today it is maintained on computer with point requests submitted online. But when the program began in 1931, all point requests were submitted on paper by mail, except for the Chicago chapters who often just walked over to the Central Office to deliver by hand. This program was originally introduced as a contest among chapters, as well as a management and effectiveness tool by the chapter and national officers. The latter is still the purpose of this program today. The old 100,000 point system was replaced in 2002 with a 100 point system, in addition to numerous other changes that have been made over the decades.

1932 was our Silver Anniversary. The Fraternity had actually been founded during the 1907–08 depression, and was now to celebrate its 25th Anniversary during another. The desire to celebrate our founding was strong as 37 banquets were held around the country, attended by nearly 25 percent of the total number of initiates at that time. The Alpha Chapter celebration was attended by



☆☆ Fraternal Facts ☆☆

Microfilmed Delta Sigma Pi history was “buried” in the Central Office cornerstone in 1956. Past Grand President John McKewen (right) and then-Grand President J. Harry Feltham did the honors.

three of the four Founders (Jacobs, Moysello, and Makay) where they were presented with Life Memberships. Founder Tienken could not attend as he was in South America at the time.

In 1933, the eyes of the world were upon Chicago—host of the 1933 World’s Fair, called “A Century of Progress Exposition.” In addition, Chicago was the host to the 11th Grand Chapter Congress. This “joint” scheduling helped to boost Congress attendance to over 300. (Incidentally, while this was not the first Grand Chapter Congress to be held in Chicago, it can be considered the last one to be held there. The 1942 and 1945 Congresses in Chicago were largely national Executive Committee meetings due to the large number of board members serving in the armed forces.)

Throughout the Great Depression, the Fraternity continued to issue *The DELTASIG* magazine. Only during the Second World War was the distribution and content temporarily changed. Another Great Depression-era program was kicked off in the November 1935 issue of the magazine—the Alumni Placing Service. This national program was an early attempt at networking, and heavily relied on local committees all over the country.

While the content of the magazine over the decades has mostly remained consistent, it is interesting to note that very little is mentioned in the magazine about the Great Depression. This must have been intentional. But one can wonder—did Deltasig college graduates fair better in their job search?

Throughout the 1920s, 1930s and post World War II period, *The DELTASIG* was also available in hard cover editions. Many brothers and chapter houses acquired these now scarce and musty treasures. As the Great Depression wore on, its impact on the Fraternity deepened. By 1937, the Fraternity had installed nearly 60 chapters, but many had become inactive or were struggling to survive. The situation would not change until 1941 when America would go to war and American business would flex its muscle to become the “arsenal of democracy.”

Delta Sigma Pi Pledge Manuals



1940 to 1945: The World War II Years

As the 1930s came to a close, the Great Depression was beginning to show signs of coming to an end. But with a new war in Europe and a war in China that had already been going on for several years, America was increasingly fearful our involvement would become an eventuality. It was becoming not a matter of "if," but a matter of "when." When the answer finally came, it was from a different part of the world and initially meant war with Japan, not Germany.

Delta Sigma Pi was operating in near normal mode in 1940. Chapters were in full operation, the Central Office was considering an expansion of services, but more and more alumni were enlisting in the "armed services." Conscription was not far off. *The DELTASIG* magazine continued to be published and the Alumni Placing Service continued in operation. But by March 1941, *The DELTASIG* began carrying articles on how business was beginning to do its part for the national defense. There was the hope, all across the country, that war could be averted. And plans were well under way for the 14th Grand Chapter Congress in September of 1942. These plans, and many others, would soon come to a quick halt.

Americans awoke early Sunday morning, December 7, 1941, to the news of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Most did not even know where Pearl Harbor was. With war finally here, things began to change and quickly. The first listing of Deltasigs in military service was published in the January 1942 edition of *The DELTASIG*. This edition also carried an advertisement to buy Savings Bonds, which would soon be re-named "War Bonds." The Executive Committee had also approved the purchase of a "significant" amount of Savings Bonds.

In the Grand President's article in the March 1942 edition of *The DELTASIG*, Grand President John McKewen announced the cancellation of September's Grand Chapter Congress.



In 1965, brothers arrived at the 25th Grand Chapter Congress at West End, Grand Bahama Island, via the M/S Grand Bahama. It was at this Congress (the first to be held outside the continental U.S.) that the Grand Council approved creation of a new award, the Order of the Golden Helmet, recognizing 50 years of service to Deltasig. The Order of the Silver Helmet award, recognizing 25 years of service, would come 14 years later.

"unpatriotic" to go ahead with the event—considering the rationing of automobile tires and the expected rationing of gasoline and restriction on travel. Soon, Ration Books would be issued for sugar, butter, coffee and beef. *The DELTASIG* also announced the establishment of war services for our alumni in uniform. Initially this would include a listing in the magazine of brothers in uniform and sharing the activities of those in uniform stationed across the country.

The May 1942 edition reported on the installation of two new chapters—Beta Pi at Kent State and Beta Rho at Rutgers. Many chapters across the country continued to operate normally, until the draft or enlistment took too many of their members. The Grand Council (Board of Directors) did meet virtually non-stop from August 14–16, 1942 in Chicago. This is listed as a Grand Chapter Congress, although all decisions were made by the Grand Council. The January 1943 edition of *The DELTASIG* was the final one until 1946 when full Fraternity services could resume. Another Grand Council meeting was

held August 25–26, 1945 in Chicago (also considered to be a Grand Chapter Congress). From 1942 through the end of the war, in order to preserve Fraternity assets, Gig Wright virtually shut down the Central Office and took part-time employment with an optical company. With nearly 10 million men in uniform by the end of the war, nearly 4,000 of them Deltasigs, most chapters had to fully or partly suspend operations.

In spite of all the shortages that year, 11 chapters were able to continue operating and 130 new members were initiated. The 11 were: Northwestern, Georgia, Wisconsin, Missouri, Minnesota, North Carolina, Denver, Miami-Ohio, Texas, Pennsylvania and Rutgers. By 1946, restrictions had been lifted and the Central Office quickly resumed full operation. That same year, 37 active chapters answered the chapter roll and more were soon to follow. No record was compiled to show how many Deltasigs lost their lives, but it is likely that many made the supreme sacrifice. Congress passed the GI bill in the late 1940s, causing a massive influx of veter-

ans to colleges all over the U.S. The stage was set for one of the largest periods of growth in Greek history.

1947 to 1959: Post War to Rock 'n Roll

1947 was a special year for Delta Sigma Pi. Rationing had ended and wartime travel restrictions lifted. Now the Fraternity was free to gather in Congress (during the war years there could not be gatherings or conventions of 50 or more people). The city of Minneapolis was chosen for the first post-war Grand Chapter Congress and over 125 brothers attended.

Of the many decisions made at this Congress, a few stand out. A new position of Assistant Grand Secretary-Treasurer had been added and Brother James D. Thomson, *Northwestern-Chicago*, had been hired. Gig Wright was getting older and plans needed to be made for the day in which Gig would choose to retire. This would still be some time off in the future.

Even though the Life Membership Program began in 1930, at the start of the Great Depression, by 1947 the National Endowment Fund had grown to over \$50,000 (from 1600 life members). The National Endowment Fund was the recipient of all proceeds from the sales of life memberships (which were originally priced at \$35). Collegiate discounts were

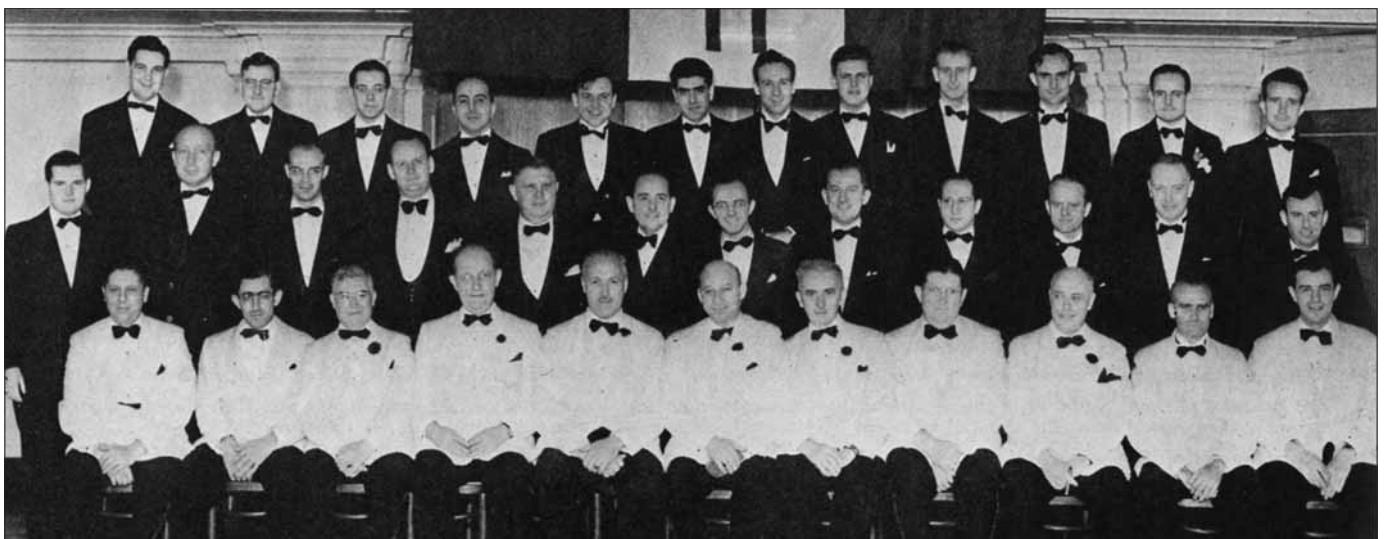
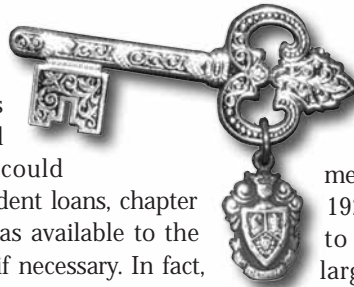
approved in 1947 to make the purchase by collegians easier. The National Endowment Fund could also be used for student loans, chapter house loans, and was available to the National Fraternity if necessary. In fact, however, Gig Wright had been so skillful in protecting all the assets of the Fraternity throughout the entire war that by war's end the Fraternity was in relatively good shape, financially speaking.

A Ground-Breaking 1949 Congress

Baltimore was chosen as host city for the 1949 Grand Chapter Congress. This proved to be the first of several Congresses that took up the discussion of some heavy topics. The first was the removal of the "Selective Membership" requirements from our constitution and bylaws. This was a very emotional topic for collegians and alumni alike. Some preferred to refer to these membership requirements as "restrictive membership" requirements. You had your choice of terms. Basically, Fraternity membership rules stated that only "males of Caucasian race, of Christian faith" were eligible to join Delta Sigma Pi. This issue came to the forefront in 1949 because some schools threatened to throw chapters off campus, or refused to allow new

chapters to be installed, if we didn't remove the "selective membership" requirements. These membership requirements had been in force since the 1920s, and were not considered to be improper or wrong by a large segment of the Fraternity membership during the 30 years prior to this Congress. In fact, a large segment of the U.S. population did not consider these race or creed restrictions to be wrong or improper in other areas of society. Today, it is hard for us to understand how such rules could have been approved here, in America. But in those years in which these rules were in force, there was sufficient support that kept them from being removed. Many argued we had the basic right to choose whomever we accepted as our brother. Nonetheless, the "selective membership" requirements were removed from the national bylaws and constitution. But the issue was far from resolved.

Also of significance at this Congress was the change to the "Preamble," or statement of purpose of Delta Sigma Pi. This was the first, and so far only, time the original wording of the purpose has been changed. The words "and social activity" were added. The reason for this (since no one in the brotherhood needed the clarification!) is that many schools were beginning to refer to Delta



The May 1942 edition of The DELTASIG reported new chapters at Rutgers (prominent Fraternity officers and charter members shown above) and Kent State. Eventually, the draft or enlistment took too many members to allow normal operations of chapters.

Sigma Pi as an honorary or recognition fraternity, not a true fraternity which we were and remain today.

Other items started or approved at this Congress included a new headquarters building fund, a testimonial of appreciation certificate for alumni (approved by the Grand Council), a retirement fund for Gig Wright, and the approval of the "Deltasig of the Year" award. In addition, a committee was set up of Boston area alumni to look into the possibility of an educational foundation being established. When little came of this committee, Gig Wright asked Grand President W. C. Sehm to appoint Bostonian Walton Juengst, *New York*, as the committee chairman. He did, and things quickly began to happen. The end result, the Delta Sigma Pi Educational Foundation, would not officially come into being until 1953 (see article on page 48).

Hazing is Discussed

The 1951 Grand Chapter Congress was held in Dallas. The Korean War was about a year old, but as this "Police Action" would not attain the size of World War II, its impact on Delta Sigma Pi would be relatively minimal. There would be no rationing or travel restrictions. One of the main discussion issues of this Congress was hazing. Fraternities were beginning to take a stand on the issue, hoping to ban the tradition of physical hazing. But many fraternities, including our own, were luke-warm when it came to mental hazing. Coupled with this was the continued effort to change the traditional "hell week" to a more purposeful "help week." For many Deltasig chapters, a change went from having a "hell week" to a "hell night." The issue of hazing would be debated well into the 1980s and 90s, and remains a challenge today. (Grand Presidents William R. Kinsella and Randy L. Hultz lead the Fraternity through some significant policy and Ritual changes in the 90s to help address hazing and risk management issues.)

In 1953, the Korean War came to an end and Deltasigs would gather in



At the 1977 Grand Chapter Congress in Toronto, Past Grand President Kenneth White was honored with a Golden Helmet award. The award was presented by then Grand President Bill Tatum (left) while Past Grand Presidents (from left) Bob Busse, John Marko, Harold Cannon and Tom Mocella looked on. Brother White was Grand President during 1945-47, the "boom" years following World War II. The Collegiate Chapter Travel Award was named for Brother White in recognition of his years of service and GCC participation.

Denver for the next Congress. The Delta Sigma Pi Educational Foundation conducted its first meeting there. The building fund for a new Fraternity headquarters had reached more than \$6,000. Locations were being considered including Evanston, Illinois and Oxford, Ohio. Gig Wright formally announced his desire to retire.

A Legend Retires and the Central Office Moves

In a report to the 1953 Grand Chapter Congress, Past Grand President Allen L. Fowler noted, in part, the following: "For some years your Grand Council has thought about and discussed the possibility and the practicality of creating an educational foundation which could take over, and perhaps enlarge upon, some of the activities now being carried on by the Fraternity. The original thinking was to the effect that we should turn over the assets of our National Endowment Fund (NEF) to this new Foundation, and that, upon payment of the \$50 life membership fee, a brother would automatically become a member of the Foundation. This was on the assumption that certain activities of Delta Sigma Pi, such as the alumni plac-

ing service, the publication of *The DELTASIG*, the biennial survey, scholarship keys, and chapter and student loans could be taken over by the new Educational Foundation."

After discussions with the U.S. Treasury Department, it was determined much of the original thinking would have to be scrapped, and there would have to be a "complete technical divorcement" of the Foundation management from that of the Fraternity. Such were the rules governing educational foundations in the 1950s. This led to the further discussions that \$50 (in 1950s valuation) was not a large enough amount to charge for a life membership considering the things that the Fraternity had hoped the Foundation could do. Once the life membership amount had been paid it was feared there may be no incentive for a brother to continue giving over the years. In the end, it was decided the NEF would not be transferred to the new Educational Foundation. The only area of "overlapping" purposes was in the area of student loans, which the NEF could also make, but this was not considered to be a problem.

The good news, in 2007, is that the NEF has reached a balance well over \$1.5 million dollars! Interest generated from the endowment continues to help fund the educational programs of the

Buzz and Stonie Sutton (see page 27) loved attending Congress, here at Mackinac Island, Michigan in 1969.





In the mid 70s, membership in Delta Sigma Pi was opened to women. Then Grand President Bill Tatum (middle) was elected to his second term at the same Grand Chapter Congress (1977) where the motion for co-educational membership was officially passed. Here Brother Tatum shares an afternoon with members of the Mideast Region at their regional conference.

Fraternity. With the advent of the various tax-deductible “arms” of Delta Sigma Pi (covered later) donations from members to the NEF were redirected. The Fraternity Board, on occasion, still places surplus funds into the NEF to enhance our endowment.

Detroit was the host city for the 1955 Grand Chapter Congress. Gig Wright, who had devoted so much of his life to the development of the Fraternity over a 35 year period, would soon retire. The new Central Office building (ground-breaking ceremonies held September 23, 1955) was to be dedicated to Brother Wright for his extraordinary service (see separate article). Also discussed at this Congress was the establishment of an alumni chapter franchise fee, an alumni chapter ritual, and the creation of a uniform alumni chapter membership card.

Our Golden Anniversary was celebrated in New York City at the Grand Chapter Congress. On May 18, 1957, the new Central Office building was officially dedicated to Gig Wright.

In 1959, the Grand Chapter Congress was held in Cincinnati. Grand Secretary-Treasurer James D. Thomson reported that the new building in Oxford, Ohio was working out just fine. Hazing is still an issue. But the “Selective Membership” requirement is working out.

The Sixties and Seventies

The Fraternity continued to develop during this time, and met some new challenges as well. Due to our rapid expansion in the late 1950s, it was recognized that a new, permanent position at the Central Office was needed. This new position, dedicated to counseling chapters on all aspects of operations, was called Field Secretary. Years later this title would be changed to Chapter Consultant, and today is called the Educational and Leadership Consultant. In 1959, Charles Farrar was hired as the first Field Secretary.

The “Hippie Years”

Social scientists may differ over when the “Hippie Years” began. Some “blame” the Beatles, some blame Elvis, some blame the war in Vietnam (if “blame” is the appropriate word). Some blame it on youthful rebelliousness. The era of the 1960s was one of growth for the Fraternity, if also one of changing values. Deltasigs have generally been a conservative bunch, but by the late Sixties and early Seventies student organizations, such as fraternities, were being labeled with that Vietnam-era moniker of “establishment.”

In 1964, James Thomson announced his retirement from the position of Executive Director, after serving at the Central Office for 18 years. Jim would be succeeded by Charles Farrar, the first non-Beta to serve in that position since the Central Office was created in 1924. It was under Charles’ leadership that the Central Office building expanded in 1970 with a new wing on each side, creating the building we know today.

The Sixties might not have been overly exciting, especially if you didn’t like hippies, but they weren’t completely dull. In fact, fun was on the mind of those attending Grand Chapter Congress on Grand Bahamas Island.

At the 1965 Congress, the legislation of greatest interest was to change the Preamble, or “Purpose,” to read, in part, “Delta Sigma Pi is a dual purpose social and professional Fraternity organized to foster... and to promote social activity and refinement...” The motion was

withdrawn by the chapter that made it, although what the “refinement” was I have not been able to ascertain. Perhaps the biggest story to come out of that Congress was the need to vacate the island quickly once Congress ended, as a hurricane was quickly approaching. This was the first Congress held outside of the continental United States—but not the last affected by a hurricane! At the 1965 Congress, and at all Congresses held during that decade, national finances were a primary concern, as many Fraternity costs were increasing each year. However, an increase in the dues or initiation rates could be quickly erased with a decrease in the total number of new initiates. Things would worsen considerably in the 1970s when double-digit inflation would impact everything from bread to blue jeans to chapter dues. Hazing continued to be an issue with discussions over mental hazing and physical hazing.

In 1965 the Grand Council, known today as the Board of Directors, approved a new award—the Order of the Golden Helmet. The first was presented to Founder Harold Valentine Jacobs. To be presented to brothers who have achieved 50 years of active service to the Fraternity, this award has been presented to hundreds of brothers to date. Some 14 years later, the Silver Helmet Award was approved for 25 years of service and was first awarded to Past Grand President Howard Johnson.

Women Join the Fraternity

With the start of the 70s came some new challenges. The Vietnam War was throwing college campuses into turmoil, and membership levels at many chapters began to decline, with only nine new chapters installed in the 1970s. And looming ahead was the controversial issue of co-educational membership, brought to the forefront by Title IX of the Federal Higher Education Act. Title IX denied federal funding support to institutions that allowed organizations with restricted membership to operate on campuses.

At the 29th Grand Chapter Congress in 1973, a constitutional amendment to

open Delta Sigma Pi membership to women was overwhelmingly defeated. At the 30th Congress in 1975, the Grand Chapter directed the Board of Directors to invoke emergency powers as provided for in the laws of the Fraternity as needed. A subsequent vote on this issue narrowly failed to pass. Thus, Grand President William Tatum, Jr. convened a conference call on November 7, 1975 and the Board of Directors unanimously voted to open membership of Delta Sigma Pi to women. As an emergency powers decision it was only temporary, until the next Grand Chapter Congress. At the 1977 Congress in Toronto, the action was ratified and co-educational membership was final.

What happened between 1973 and 1975 to cause so many chapters to change their minds? In 1973 this was an “open wound” type of issue that most brothers just did not like. But by 1975, there were many new collegiate members in the chapters who, intentionally or not, had been prepared by the national organization for the possibility of the Fraternity going co-ed. Going co-ed did not seem that bad when faced with the prospect of no Fraternity at all. As a result, the chapters were, generally speaking, willing if not entirely ready to begin initiating women in 1975. Only a few chapters refused to initiate women, and they would hold out for many years. Eventually, they were told to become co-ed or their charters would be revoked. And that is what did happen one week later. Many of these “holdout” chapters have since been re-activated.

And then, in 1978, a gift from the gods (although a dubious one!) made fraternities and sororities fashionable again. The movie “Animal House” was released. Soon, toga parties would be held all across the country, even at Grand Chapter Congress!

The Awesome 80s through Today

We are now nearing the end of the story, or at least as much as has been lived. The story of Delta Sigma Pi certainly does not end with the year 2007. What exciting changes are in store for

our brotherhood as we continue into the 21st Century can only be dreamed of, but it was the dream of four young men one hundred years ago that set the stage for what was to become Delta Sigma Pi.

In 1982, under the guidance of Grand President Michael Mallonee, the first computer system was installed at the Central Office (see Mazur article on page 58), and even this soon proved inadequate for our needs. Today, our national headquarters has virtually every facet of operations fully computerized. Chapters submit all their forms online, and individuals can submit scholarship applications online as well. In addition, over the last 10 years the chapter consultant (originally field secretary) program has undergone change and improvement (much related to 24/7 resource access). Today, the two educational and leadership consultants can offer chapters advice more tailored to their specific needs.

During the late 1970s and early 1980s, inflation was being brought under control and growth of Fraternity membership once again began to rival that of the post-war years. In 1979, a milestone of significance was reached with the initiation of our 100,000th member (Connie Joe Peitzmeier, *Wayne State-Nebraska*).

During late 1981, yet another milestone was reached as the 200th chapter of the Fraternity was installed at Southwest Missouri State (now Missouri State) in Springfield. Our Diamond Anniversary year—1982—culminated with celebrations conducted at all the Regional Conferences and a Fraternity-wide weekend celebration held in Cincinnati and Oxford with over 350 in attendance.

The 1980s was a period of steady growth in membership and the number of collegiate chapters. It was during this period that Delta Sigma Pi expanded into the state of Hawaii with an installation at Hawaii-Hilo in 1989.

Even with growth, we were not immune to financial challenges. This was particularly true in relation to publication of *The DELTASIG* magazine and many other expense items. The number



Past Grand President Kathy Jahnke was elected in 2001 as the Fraternity's first female president. Proudly looking on as she gave her first speech were (from left) Past Grand Presidents Bill Tatum and Mike Mallonee.

of pages in the magazine was reduced and a survey conducted to determine what the readers liked and disliked. Eventually a tabloid-style issue on less expensive newspaper stock was introduced. This, thankfully, was short lived with a return to coated paper. In 2002, a high-quality printed magazine format returned, but the number of issues per year was cut from four to three.

To help meet growing financial needs, the solution finally agreed upon was to stop collecting national alumni dues and to combine all fund raising of the Fraternity and the Educational Foundation into a new IRS 501(c)3 organization called the Delta Sigma Pi Leadership Foundation (see article on page 48). As a result, today we have a large number of scholarships and grants which continue to increase in number and amount. Fraternity finances improved and have largely stayed that way from the late 90s on, due mostly to expansion, strong recruiting by chapters and successful affinity programs like insurance and bank credit cards.

The 1980s (and 90s) also saw discussion and action related to administrative restructuring. The Fraternity was growing in size in virtually every respect and needed a structure that would meet our needs then and into the future. Eventually, new administrative divisions called “provinces” were approved. Each province would contain several “regions,” and each region would still be broken into several “districts” adminis-

tered by a district director. A province would be administered by a provincial vice president and regions were to be administered by regional vice presidents.

In the late 90s, a "Governance Task Force" was created, under the leadership of Grand President Norman Kromberg. Suggested changes would bring the creation of provincial conferences and provincial council meetings. Provincial conferences would substantially be the same as a regional conference, but would now include all of the regions within that province. A provincial council meeting, held in conjunction with a provincial conference, is a meeting of all chapter delegates from a province to discuss legislative and other issues that come before it. These provincial gatherings are now known as LEAD events (Leadership and Excellence Academies for Deltasigs). The council meetings have had the effect of substantially reducing the amount of legislation to be discussed and voted on at a Congress.

LEAD events are not limited to the provincial conference and council meetings. Also included in this LEAD category are the LEAD Schools (held in the fall for a single day), LEAD Volunteer Workshops for future Fraternity leaders, Congress educational programs and the LeaderShape® Institute. These conferences, workshops and training sessions provide opportunities for Deltasigs to maximize their potential in four areas: personal, professional, leadership and fraternal development. (Detailed information on upcoming LEAD events can be found on the Fraternity web site at www.dspnet.org).

At the 2001 Grand Chapter Congress in Niagara Falls/Buffalo, the new governance structure was put into effect. Some of the more notable changes to occur included the addition of a fifth province (breaking the Mid American into the North Central and South Central—leaving each of the 5 provinces with approximately 40 chapters), national committees and the new Board positions of Vice President-Organizational Development and Vice President-Finance. History was also made in Niagara Falls, 25 years after

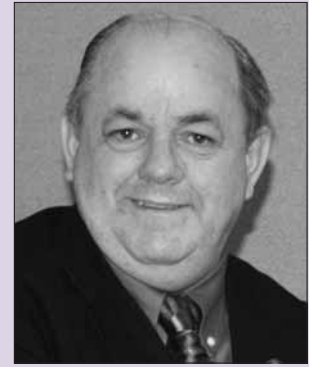
women first became brothers in Delta Sigma Pi, when the Fraternity's first female Grand President was elected—Kathleen M. Jahnke.

Leadership of the Fraternity ultimately has come from the many dedicated volunteers who have served in elected positions—most notably that of Grand President. The Golden Council includes those elected leaders and also select members of the Central Office staff. Staff members serving with distinction included Ben Wolfenberger who followed Charles Farrar as executive director, serving from 1974–1980, Michael J. Mazur Jr., followed, serving from 1981–1994. Bill Schilling replaced Mazur in 1995 and continues in that role. Other staff leaders, serving for many years—many in several capacities—include Brothers Michael J. Tillar (1973–1981), Michael T. Walsh (1978–1990), Mark A. Roberts (1980–1984), C. Dean Ferguson (1984–1998), Robby L. Hultz (1987–95), Daniel Doyle (1988–1994), Dale M. Clark (1992–present), Shanda R. Gray (1999–present) and Michael M. Banks (2002–present). These brothers, and many others, have collectively left many successful imprints on Delta Sigma Pi.

Along with staff changes, more membership milestones have passed: 1991—150,000, 1997—175,000, and 2003, our 200,000 initiate—Ben Larson, *Indiana*. As of June 1, 2007, our numbers show over 216,000 initiates and 191 of



At 94 years young, Past Grand President Bob Busse has lived a lot of Delta Sigma Pi history. Elected in 1953, here he mentors the "newest" Grand President Mitch Simmons, elected in 2005. Bob and his daughter Laurie were the first father-daughter initiates in the Fraternity.



Centennial Series author James Prescott, Loyola-Chicago, currently serves as treasurer of the Chicago Alumni Chapter and is a member of the National Centennial Steering Committee. Jim was honored in 2006 with the Deltasig Lifetime Achievement Award for his many years of service, both to Chicago Alumni and the overall Fraternity.

263 collegiate chapters active on campus.

The last 25 years of societal changes have also dramatically affected Delta Sigma Pi in terms of traditions and ritual. The public and academia's definitions of—and tolerance for—hazing and alcohol-related activities have changed significantly. "Risk management" became and remains a buzzword and focal point for leadership and the chapters. An extensive policy was first passed in 1991 that prohibited use of kegs and related activities. Liability insurance was added as a significant and necessary annual cost of chapter operations in the mid 1990s.

The flip side of moving into the new Millennium means our Fraternity can boast of a modern, professional web site (first created in 1995) that is updated regularly. Anytime, and from almost anywhere, a brother can go online and find out what is going on in the Fraternity. National event registration, merchandise purchases, and other items can also be ordered and paid for online. The possibilities are endless!

How fitting it is that the Fraternity begins its 100th year in such great condition! Countless brothers have set a tremendous foundation for us to build an even better future for the Fraternity, for our members and for the world of commerce. ▲