

SPRING 2011



*Epsilon Mu hopes to attract an even larger 45th anniversary crowd than this group that gathered for the chapter's 40th anniversary in 2006 (pictured above).*

## LARGE TURNOUTS ENCOURAGE RETURN OF ALUMNI EVENTS

### Golf Outing, Anniversary Reunion Lined Up for 2011

Last summer's alumni golf outing was an overwhelming success. More than 80 Delt alumni showed up to hit the links together. The event has grown from its humble beginnings as an informal gathering to what will be the second official annual outing this year. This golf excursion is not a fundraising event, but rather a fun day for Epsilon Mu brothers to reconnect and remember how great life was back in the day. Since we had \$270 left over from last summer's get-together, that surplus will be applied to this year's outing, tentatively scheduled for July 30 at River Glen Golf Club in Fishers.

Alumni Day and our 44th chapter anniversary celebration also proved to be a good time and will be continued on an annual basis. This year's alumni reunion will celebrate Epsilon Mu's 45th year as a chapter of Delta Tau Delta and will be held the weekend of September 24, when Ball State hosts Army. We are in the planning stage for 2011, so watch for more details to come.

If you would like to get involved in planning these or future alumni events, please contact **Brian Hobbs '99** at (317) 727-4477 or bshobbs@hotmail.com. We hope to see you soon.

Fraternally,  
**Jeff Hern '92**  
President  
House Corporation  
jeffhern@aol.com

**Brian Hobbs '99**  
Northern Division VP,  
Assistant Chapter Advisor  
bshobbs@hotmail.com

We want your input! Please complete our quick questionnaire at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/W7TPNNV](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/W7TPNNV) to help us plan an unforgettable 45th reunion.



*Delt alumni shared stories and laughs at the 44th anniversary Alumni Day celebration.*

## NEW ADVISING, PHILANTHROPY, AND MEMBERSHIP STRENGTHEN CHAPTER Epsilon Mu Number One in Fraternity Service Hours and Dollars Raised

As the chapter settles in to a new semester, we are optimistic for the road ahead. The chapter excelled in recruitment, community service, philanthropy, and intramurals last year. Our newly elected executive board is eager and ready to bring the chapter to a new level of excellence.

### ACADEMICS

The chapter achieved a term G.P.A. of 2.598, with a cumulative G.P.A. of 2.762. We are thankful to have the talents of **Garth Eberhart, Beta Psi '92**, who recently joined our Alumni Advising Team as a faculty academic advisor. With Garth's expertise, the chapter plans to review the structure and efficiency of our academic plan and policies.

### PHILANTHROPY

Our chapter raised \$6,488 in philanthropic dollars last semester, which ranks first in fraternities and third overall in the BSU Greek community. We paired with Alpha Chi Omega for our 37th annual Watermelon Bust Festival. The proceeds went toward the Red Cross, our Adopt-a-School program, and the Make-a-Wish Foundation. The chapter completed 1,139 community service hours, which ranks first in fraternities and second overall.

### MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITIES

Epsilon Mu members are leaders on the Ball State campus. Our internal vice president, **D.J. Andrews '12**, sits on the Miller College of Business Dean's Student Advisory Board, **Jake Walden '12** was elected vice president of risk management on IFC, and I am on the executive board of SGA as the secretary of governance. We also have a number of members who are in Order of Omega and Student Government Association.

We initiated 27 new members from the fall 2010 pledge class, which brought our total membership to 73 men. We retained 73% of our new members. These men will follow in the Delt footsteps as leaders on campus.

### CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

The chapter will be hosting our new spring philanthropic event, Greek Day, in mid-April. The women of Alpha Gamma Delta have accepted our bid to pair for Homecoming in 2011. We recently co-sponsored an academic presentation with the women of Alpha Phi, which aimed to improve students' knowledge of how to succeed in the classroom. We plan to host more of these types of events this semester with a variety of organizations.

We hosted a Parent's Auction last fall, which turned out to be very successful. We raised more than \$800 that will go toward membership development activities this spring. I would like to thank alumni and parents for your support. Your involvement is truly beneficial to our chapter.

### INTRAMURALS

Epsilon Mu Chapter sits in third place in intramurals and is in the hunt to win the fraternity league championship trophy this year. The chapter has a lot of athletic talent at its disposal, which will help us produce strong performances across a variety of sports.

I am looking forward to a very successful and rewarding semester. The executive board plans to implement programs that will benefit all members and alumni. I'd like to thank all of our alumni and volunteers for your continued care and support. I encourage all to take a trip back to the chapter house to be a part of our success.



**Michael Ely '12**

Chapter President  
michael.ely11@gmail.com  
(260) 416-8006

## Epsilon Mu Brings Home Honors from Northern Division Conference

The chapter received recognition in a number of areas at Delta Tau Delta's Northern Division Conference February 4-6. The following awards recognized the undergraduates' diligence over the past year:

- Court of Honor (Awarded annually to the top 20 chapters in the Fraternity based on the past year's programming and operations)
- John E. Blake National Website
- Achieving Recruitment Goals
- Exceeding Recruitment Goals & 80% Retention Rate
- Chapter Growth of 25%
- Adopt-a-School
- IFC President **Austin Gerber '10**
- Outstanding Alumni Service Award **John Knox '78**

## WELCOME, NEW INITIATES

**Anthony Allen**  
*Scottsburg, Ind.*

**Trey Desjardin**  
*Newburgh, Ind.*

**Kyle Mcevoy**  
*East Moriches, N.Y.*

**Jon Slutz**  
*West Lafayette, Ind.*

**Brandon Baker**  
*West Lafayette, Ind.*

**Joe Dimaggio**  
*St. John, Ind.*

**Jonathan Overmeyer**  
*Indianapolis, Ind.*

**Derik Starling**  
*Indianapolis, Ind.*

**Oliver Benz**  
*Carmel, Ind.*

**Zach Groth**  
*Brownsburg, Ind.*

**Russell Price**  
*Carmel, Ind.*

**Eric Ward**  
*Milwaukee, Wis.*

**Aaron Berry**  
*Auburn, Ind.*

**Josh King**  
*Indianapolis, Ind.*

**Matt Salamander**  
*Martinsville, Ind.*

**Reinhart Wibisono**  
*Salem, Ind.*

**Justin Briggs**  
*Brownsburg, Ind.*

**Eric Levitt**  
*Indianapolis, Ind.*

**Zach Schreiber**  
*Franklin, Ind.*

**Jacob Wildauer**  
*Indianapolis, Ind.*

**Sean Conley**  
*Angola, Ind.*

**Eric Long**  
*Greenwood, Ind.*

**Will Schwecke**  
*Liberty, Ind.*

**Ryan Williams**  
*Galveston, Ind.*

**Zach DeRolf**  
*Pendleton, Ind.*

**Jay Sheets**  
*Frankfort, Ind.*

**Jonathan Wolfschlag**  
*Lafayette, Ind.*

Please send recruitment recommendations to

**Jonathan Wolfschlag '14** at [jdwolfschlag@gmail.com](mailto:jdwolfschlag@gmail.com) or (765) 426-4309.

## Volunteers Fill Out Alumni Advising Team

I am proud to report that since our last edition of *The Iris*, our Alumni Advising Team (AAT) now has every position filled with committed volunteers. Our most recent additions are that of a faculty academic advisor, membership education advisor, and a life skills advisor.

The faculty academic advisor position has been filled by **Garth Eberhart, Beta Psi '92**. Garth served many roles while working at the Fisher-Nichols International Headquarters in Fishers, Ind. He recently accepted a professional position at Ball State University and has agreed to assist the undergraduate men of Epsilon Mu as their academic advisor.

The membership education advisor position has been filled by **Eric "Ike" Eicher '98**. Ike is a graduate of Epsilon Mu Chapter and is a tremendous asset to the AAT. We are excited to have him on our team.

The life skills advisor position has been filled by Marianne Benson, mother to our very own **Brett Benson '98**. Marianne has agreed to assist the

men of Delta Tau Delta with various life skills training and educational programming. We are pleased to have her as a part of our AAT.

*I am proud to report that since our last edition of The Iris, our Alumni Advising Team now has every position filled with committed volunteers.*

Please join with me in welcoming our new AAT volunteers. I thank all who continue to volunteer your time to serve the undergraduate men of Epsilon Mu. We are looking forward to a great 2011. It is my belief another Court of Honor or even a Hugh Shields flag is in the near future.



**Dave Frye '04**  
Chapter Advisor  
dwfrye@bsu.edu

## ALUMNI UPDATE

**Thomas R. Murray '68** works at Okeechobee High School in Florida. He and his wife, Mary Ann, have two children, Laura and Michael. E-mail: okeetom@yahoo.com

**Fred Hitz '69** retired in 2007. He and his wife, Malena, live in Muncie. E-mail: hitz@comcast.net

**C. David Toth '71** is principal architect at The Architecture Studio in Indianapolis. He has two children, Jennifer and Joshua.

**David L. Steigerwald '72** plans to retire from teaching in July. He and his wife, Susan, live in Greendale, Ind., and have two children, Pete and Jane. E-mail: steig1@comcast.net

**Jerry W. Lotich '73** works at The Blake Hotel in Charlotte, N.C. He and his wife, Lynda, have a son, Todd, and live in Jamestown. E-mail: jlotich@blakehotelnc.com

**Bill R. Chappo '74** and his wife, Debra, celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary last July by visiting family in California. While they were there, they took a seven-day cruise to Mexico. They both plan to retire from teaching in the next couple years and still enjoy returning to BSU to visit the house, current and past brothers. E-mail: coachchappo@yahoo.com

**Larry P. McFarland '74** owns Schafstall Inc., a full-service contracting company in Columbus, Ind. He has five children with his wife, Sharon. They live in Edinburg, Ind. E-mail: mcfarlandsharon@att.net

**Ronald S. Connerly '75** is senior pastor at New Beginnings Church in Hiawatha, Iowa. He and his wife, Debra, have two sons, Scott and Keith. E-mail: acmepastor1@hotmail.com

**Alan L. Heckendorn '79** is a San Diego area manager at Rexel. He and his wife, Sally, have two children, Tyler and Lauren. E-mail: shecken16san.rr.com

**Timothy J. Schrader '81** is president of Associated Brokerage and lives in Noblesville, Ind.

**Kelly D. McCray '82** is director of student development services at the University of Illinois at Chicago. E-mail: ckm0903@uic.edu

**Michael Burd '84** is director of development at Valley Services in Jackson, Miss. He lives with his wife, Nancy, in Fairfield, Ohio. E-mail: mburo\_0825@fuse.net

**Marty L. Walthers '89** works at R. H. Clarkson Financial Inc. He lives in New Albany, Ind. E-mail: walthers4@att.net

**Jason J. Leffler '94** is vice president of sales and marketing at National Wine & Spirits. He lives in Indianapolis with his wife, Monica, and three children: Gabe, Henry, and Amelia.

**Akil A. Patel, DDS '94** owns a dental practice. He and his wife, Rina, live in Tucker, Ga. E-mail: akil27@gmail.com

**Tom J. Jester '95** is human resources manager at Logistics 2020 Inc. in Chester, Va. He lives with his wife, Amy, in Midlothian. E-mail: tjester6@verizon.com

**Brian J. Haynes '96** lives in Fredericksburg, Va., with his wife, Jennifer, and two daughters, Gabriella and Bianca.

*Send alumni news to: bshobbs@hotmail.com*



*Brent Tuttle '72 and his son, Derick, Epsilon Omega '10, celebrate Derick's graduation in December in front of the new Delt Shelter at Georgia Southern University.*

## It Takes a Village

### Charter Member **Doug Siebert '68** Reflects on the Dedicated Delts Who Brought about Epsilon Mu

As charter members of Delta Tau Delta at Ball State, **Doug Siebert '68** and his founding brothers devoted countless hours to the formation of Epsilon Mu. Looking back on the all-consuming task of building a fraternity from scratch, Doug has no qualms. “We had no real model,” he says. “It took a *lot* of time, but we didn’t know any better, so it wasn’t that rough.”

The upside to transforming Pi Delta Gamma into a national entity was the sort of reverse recruitment process that took place; Doug and his comrades had the opportunity to handpick the national organization that best matched their criteria and bring it to Muncie. “The Delt Creed, what you believe in, what you take the oath for for Delta Tau Delta fit the best,” he reasons. “Once we got started, it was hard to pick out a Delt on campus. That was a good thing. We were a diverse group that didn’t fall under one category.”

*“I don’t think we realized at the time that what we were starting would still be going 45 years later.”*

Even with the combined efforts of the Delt charter members, the transition to Delta Tau Delta would not have been possible without the involvement and guidance of Delt alumni and supporters, especially **Walter Klinge, Beta Zeta '49**, and **John Fisher, Delta Delta '38**. “Alumni



*Doug Siebert '68 and his wife, Gayle, celebrate their 40th anniversary in Hawaii.*

were instrumental in helping us buy the historical house at 605 Riverside,” Doug says. “I remember moving into the house. We had bought a bunch of bunk beds. There were angels painted on the bedroom wall, so they helped us redo it for a bunch of guys.”

Despite their fledgling status, the Delts didn’t ease into Greek life. They immediately became top contenders in intramurals, philanthropy, recruitment, and the Spring Sing variety show. But then, there really was no way to make an entrance but to go gangbusters after former U.S. Attorney General, Supreme Court Justice, and Delt National President Thomas C. Clark made the trip to Muncie to initiate the group. “That



*Doug Siebert '68 glances at the camera during the reception following the Epsilon Mu Chapter installation at BSU on November 12, 1966.*

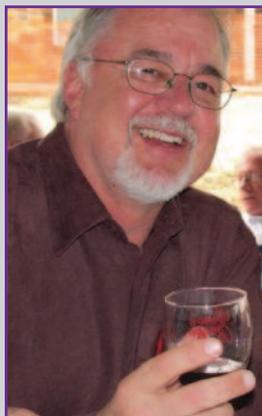
was something special,” Doug reflects. “It was a big deal when we went national. I don’t think we realized at the time that what we were starting would still be going 45 years later.”

It took a team effort to get the Delts up and running, and Doug is pleased the brothers over the years have maintained the high reputation of Epsilon Mu. “We founders have a stake in it to make sure Epsilon Mu stays a good local chapter. The criteria we established, the quality is still there,” he says. He hopes the Delts of today and tomorrow appreciate the opportunities granted them by Delta Tau Delta. “The fraternity

*(Continued on the back)*

## Double-Bid Euchre and Pickup Basketball

### Delt Memories, Lessons Stay with **Chris Pelkin '74**



*Chris Pelkin '74 attends a wine tasting last year.*



*Delta Tau Delta Room Six brothers, circa December 1973. From left: Dan Evard '75, Dennis Sturdevant '73, Doug Agnew '75, Bob McDaniel '74, Chris Pelkin '74. Front: Tom Baker '75.*

The Greek recruitment process of the 1970s was a different beast than that of today. Participants were required to tour each and every fraternity house on campus the first day. For **Chris Pelkin '74** and his friends, the grading criteria for these chapters was strict. “My two friends from high school and I rated each house based on three categories: the house itself, the attractiveness of the girls who were assisting the brothers—after all, we were freshmen with priorities—and, most importantly, the brothers themselves.” His assessments led Chris to eventually pledge Delta Tau Delta the following spring. “It was one of the best decisions in my college career,” he says, “as I made lifelong friends there.”

Only now, three decades removed from their college days, do Chris and his brothers realize the unique significance of their time at Ball State and with Epsilon Mu. “It was the cusp of two generations with vastly different world views,” he says. Many viewed fraternities to be an anachronism of the old days set against the dramatic social changes of the era. “I’m not sure we fully understood at the time how the future of fraternities on many

## “It’s Our Turn”

### Matt Momper '83 Embraces Alumni Mentorship Tradition

These days, it’s difficult for young men entering the professional realm, and even older men who have been in the working world for years, to home in on their career goals in the midst of the economic turbulence. **Matt Momper '83** knows, however, that hard work and patience will win out in the end. “Your career is a long journey. It takes time to establish a successful career,” he says. “Success comes one job at a time. Stick to it. Be honest and ethical.”

*“The positive mentoring process in Epsilon Mu in turn helped me become a good mentor to my children and now my employees.”*

Matt should know. It wasn’t always smooth sailing trying to maintain and build upon his father’s insulation company. Thanks to a focus on quality and teamwork, though, Momper Insulation celebrated its golden anniversary as the largest and one of the most reputable independent insulators in Indiana.

“Many young men get into a career for the money but don’t understand that a career they enjoy and can put all their focus and effort into will reap benefits worth more than the money they would make doing something they aren’t passionate about,” he explains.

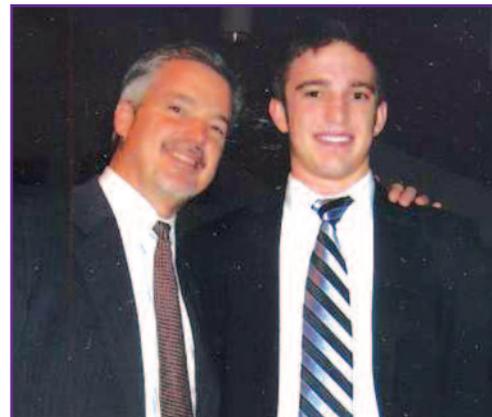
So where did Matt learn all his business

savvy? A bachelor’s degree in economics and business administration didn’t hurt, nor did his MBA from Drake University. Central to learning ever-important life lessons, though, was Delta Tau Delta.

“The positive mentoring process in Epsilon Mu helped me become a good mentor to my children and now my employees,” he says. “We learned real life lessons: the importance of giving back, working together with both friends and foes to reach a common goal, and the value of friendships.”

Matt’s experiences during his undergraduate years as chapter chairman, later on the house corporation and the committee for the Fisher Wing of the Delt Shelter, and today on the Ball State Board of Trustees have kept him connected to the men and the memories of Delta Tau Delta. His fraternity brothers are still some of the most important people in his life, after his wife, Lisa, and children: **Luke, Beta Alpha '14**, a freshman at Indiana University Bloomington; Libby, a high school junior; and Mary, an eighth grader. In fact, one of Matt’s Delt brothers is Luke’s godfather. “I have stayed in touch with many of my brothers,” Matt says. “They are my close friends.”

The bond of the Delt brotherhood is not a new phenomenon. Matt is thankful for the dedication the alumni showed him and his brothers when



*Matt Momper '83 and his son, Luke, Beta Alpha '14, who pledged Delta Tau Delta at Indiana University Bloomington.*

they were in college. “Alumni involved in the chapter when I was an undergraduate had a lot of good advice and knowledge to pass down to us. It was a great gift, and it’s our turn to share it with today’s undergraduates.”

Matt’s advice for the newest generation of Deltas? “Remember why you are at Ball State—businesses hire smart guys first,” he says. “Get involved in the fraternity and the university. There are wonderful opportunities in both. You just have to put yourself out there.”

Contact Matt at [mmomper@momper.com](mailto:mmomper@momper.com).

campuses depended upon the abilities of the young men of our day to help keep fraternities relevant during this period.”

What Chris did understand as a collegian was the unmatched camaraderie he had formed with his brothers. Living in the house together, it was the simple things that strengthened their bond: pickup basketball games, serenading the brides of newly married brothers with the Sweetheart Song, coaching the Delt soccer team to an intramural championship game, and living the tenets of the Delt creed. “It was at that time that Epsilon Mu decided to start the charitable Watermelon Festival in order to have a positive impact upon the community,” he says. “It was fun planning the logistics of that first event, and I have been proud that they have continued fundraising through the event over all these years.”

Though he earned a bachelor’s degree in secondary education, Chris never became a teacher. He found his calling with First American Real Estate Tax Services, only his second job out of college and the company from which he retired last summer after 31 years. “I would credit my Delta Tau Delta experience with helping me to develop leadership, social, and collaborative skills that were invaluable to my success in the business world.”

Despite reaching retirement, Chris notes he still doesn’t know what he wants to be when he grows up. He urges undergraduates to “keep on keepin’ on. Even though you may not have a clear idea what you want to do in life, putting in the work and time and study to earn the degree lays a groundwork that will prove invaluable as you make your way in the world, regardless of what the degree may be in and what you do with it.”

*“I would credit my Delta Tau Delta experience with helping me to develop leadership, social, and collaborative skills that were invaluable to my success in the business world.”*

While he is considering his next path in life, Chris enjoys the extra time he has to visit his brothers from Room Six. He travels several times a year from his Colorado home to Indiana for a little double-bid euchre, a card game they learned in Muncie but which, alas, has not made it to the Centennial State. Of course, the highlight of their games is reflecting on their years at Ball State in the Delt Shelter together. “My years actively involved in the fraternity provided some of my most cherished memories.”

To contact Chris, e-mail him at [cpelkin@yahoo.com](mailto:cpelkin@yahoo.com).

# THE



# IRIS

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Association of Muncie  
P.O. Box 6261  
Fishers, IN 46038-6261

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Attention: This newsletter is intended for alumni and parents. If your son is still attending Ball State University, he will receive a copy at the chapter house. If he has graduated, please send us his permanent address to update our records. Thank you.

## Doug Siebert '68

*(Continued from page 4)*

provides so much leadership experience. You'd be surprised how much that pays off later in life."

Though decades have passed since Epsilon Mu's triumphant debut at Ball State, Doug still keeps track of the pledges he trained, and he attends art shows with his wife nearly as much for the chance to see his Delt brothers as for the art. "Going national, buying the house, those trials made us that much closer," he says. "What really kept me excited about Ball State was my experience with the fraternity."

To contact Doug, e-mail him at [dougsiebert@frontier.com](mailto:dougsiebert@frontier.com).

## FIND US ON THE WEB

### Check Out Our New Facebook Group

Search "BSU Delts Alumni"  
and click "Like" to view photos,  
receive event announcements, and  
connect with your Epsilon Mu brothers.

**Twitter**  
[@BallStateDelts](https://twitter.com/BallStateDelts)

**Epsilon Mu Chapter**  
[www.bsudelts.org](http://www.bsudelts.org)

## Upcoming Events

### Undergraduates

**April 5-12**  
Greek Week

### Alumni

**Saturday, July 30**  
Second Annual  
Delt Alumni Classic Golf Outing  
(details TBD)

### September 23-25

45th Chapter Anniversary Reunion  
Mark your calendars now and  
stay tuned for more information! We hope  
to see you there to help celebrate a milestone  
in the history of Epsilon Mu!

**ΔΤΔ: Letters of Distinction. Lives of Excellence.**