

2010 Fall Sigma Report

Sigma Alpha Epsilon, South Dakota Sigma

The University of South Dakota

By: James W. Payer II

Celebrating 100 Years

On January 27, 1911, the South Dakota Sigma chapter was founded by Charles W. Sterling. Now, 100 years later, South Dakota Sigma is still standing strong. This summer, please clear your calendar for the “can’t miss event.”

On June 24th-25th, our Alumni Association in coordination with SAE Nationals will be hosting an event where you can reconnect with brothers, meet new members of the house, and reflect on all the good times that the fraternity life has impacted on your life.

The celebration will “kick off” starting at 1 pm Friday, June 24th. There will be a golf tournament at the Elmwood Golf Course in Sioux Falls, SD. The tournament will feature an 18-hole course which includes pin prizes, cart rental, and some appetizers after the round. The cost is \$65 per person. Following the tournament, there will be a social hosted at the Ramkota Hotel. Even though there is no official schedule or timeline for the social, they are predicting to begin the social at 6pm.

Saturday, June 25th, will feature a bus trip to Vermillion to view the chapter house and USD’s campus. This event is scheduled for 10am, but is optional for everyone. If you wish to attend this bus trip back to Vermillion, we are requesting that you register online to have an estimate of how many will need a ride to and from Sioux Falls. This cost is roughly about \$20 which will include a 12:30pm lunch at the Chapter house. The bus also plans on stopping by Carey’s Bar for a drink or two and then returning to Sioux Falls approximately around 3pm.

Beginning at 6pm, please join us again for another social hour. Appetizers and drinks will be available at the Ramkota hotel bar. Finally, our brotherhood dinner will begin at 7pm and end about 9pm. The cost will be around \$50 that will feature filet mignon, chicken roulade, salad, vegetable, and desert. The current Eminent Supreme Archon, Dr. Martin D. Wigglesworth, and the current Eminent Supreme Recorder, Steven K. Priepke, will be in attendance and making a presentation.

A website has been set up for the 100th year celebration. The website includes the schedule of events, hotel accommodation information, and a registration tab. The Alumni Association is looking for class captains for each class. This all can be coordinated through the website as well. We encourage and wish that all brothers who are planning on attending to please visit the website and register for the celebration. The website can be found at <http://sdsigma100.com>.

A New Facelift

During the summer of 2010, the South Dakota Sigma Chapter house began renovations upstairs, in the formal living room, and in the basement. The hallways that run upstairs were given a fresh coat of paint, brightening the hallways and covering up the scuffs and marks that were visually present by moving from semester to semester.

Our Chapter Room in the basement was repainted as well. Also, through alumni donations and tapping into the 1911 fund, our chapter was able to lay laminate flooring to give the room a more comfortable feel. Of course, with every project comes complications and this room was no different. After about two weeks with our new floor, the Vermillion community experienced heavy rainfall which ended up flooding our basement. Thanks to swift action by our House Corporation, the insurance covered the costs of replacing 70% of the floor and deodorizing the Pit and downstairs library. In addition to our new floor, our chapter was able to purchase new chairs for all of our members instead of having to haul chairs from the dining room before every meeting.

The final project that our house accomplished this year was the formal living room. Thanks to extra help that was contributed by parents and undergraduate brothers, we were able to cut costs significantly. We painted the walls a dark red color and put in a dark brown carpet. Then we accented the room with new leather couches and hung pictures of famous SAE brothers on the wall. As well as new carpet in the living room, we covered the stairs leading to the chapter room and Ma Raymond's Hallway with the new carpet.

Our chapter only has begun to bring new life to different parts of the house and will continue to do a little bit every summer. Talks of a new deck, renovations to the pit, downstairs library, and upstairs study room have already begun to circulate.

In the bonds,
Travis Hahler
Eminent Treasurer

Sigma Alpha Epsilon Takes Over Homecoming

During USD's Homecoming, Sigma Alpha Epsilon topped every Greek house yet again by having 6 total nominations for Homecoming King. A total of 24 men were nominated by organizations on campus, and our chapter had the most nominated members from any other Greek house or organization on campus. Also, one junior member was selected by the USD planning committee to serve on USD's Homecoming Dakota Days Committee.

After the preliminary voting, we yet again stood out from the rest by having five of the seven finalists from our fraternity. The seven nominees were then required to write a paper, go to alumni events, and interview with USD's finest. Unfortunately no one from our house was crowned king, but South Dakota Sigma was definitely well represented.

In the bonds,
James W. Payer II
Dakota Days Committee

1911 Fund Update

In January of 2003, South Dakota Sigma established an additional component to the 1911 Fund known as the "Century Club." Once an alumnus has donated over \$100 to the fund from 2003 and on, he is known as a Century Club member. We honor these brothers by placing a plaque, including the name and year graduated, on the bricks in Ma Raymond's Hallway. The plaque fills the size of one brick and consists of gold lettering on a black background.

Once an alumnus has donated above \$500, the black plaque is removed from the wall and is replaced with a red plaque. The black plaque is sent in the mail immediately after removing it from Ma Raymond's Hallway. Once an alumnus meets the \$1,000 level, the red plaque is removed and is changed with a gold plaque. Finally after reaching the \$5,000 donation mark, the plaque will be replaced with a large 8x10 plaque which will be hung above the fireplace in the formal living room. All of the donations made from January 2003 to the present year have been recorded by the Alumni Relations Chairman.

The 1911 Fund is set up solely for house improvements. In the past, we have tapped into the fund to help accommodate the expenses that we incurred for our renovations to the formal living room, upstairs bathroom, dining room, and chapter room. All donations made to the 1911 Fund can be used as a tax write-off since South Dakota Sigma is a non-profit organization.

Many new members were currently added last semester and we are hoping to see many new names in the near future before the SD Sigma 100th Year Anniversary. Any donations are encouraged since all amounts are accumulated and added to your own name instead of just a onetime donation. Any questions, comments, or concerns can be directed to Justin Ebsen (Eminent Archon/Alumni Relations) or James W. Payer II (Eminent Deputy Archon/Awards Chairman). Donations can be sent to 856 Madison Street, Vermillion, SD 57069. Also for your convenience, we have set up a Paypal account that can be found by searching Sigma Alpha Epsilon South Dakota Sigma on Google.com. We thank you for your continued support and hope to finish many new projects before this summer.

In the bonds,
Justin Ebsen
Eminent Archon/Alumni Relations
Justin.Ebsen@usd.edu

James W. Payer II
Eminent Deputy Archon/Awards Chairman
James.Payer@usd.edu

Campus Leaders

- ❖ Dance Marathon Executive Team: Aaron Oestmann, Joe Muth, Andrew Weckman,& Kevin Cwach
- ❖ Student Ambassadors Vice President: James W. Payer II
- ❖ Students In Free Enterprise: Aaron Oestmann (President) & James W. Payer II (Vice President of Human Resources)
- ❖ Pre-Dental Club: Andrew Boyd (President)
- ❖ Student Government Association: Garrett DeVries, Matt Blake, Marc Bury,& Aaron Oestmann,
- ❖ Dakota Days Committee: James W. Payer II (Vice President of Coronation)
- ❖ Interfraternity Council: Patrick Davis (Community Service), Justin Palmer (Vice President), & Travis Hahler (Recruitment)

A Helping Hand

This past semester, our chapter has been extremely busy working on making USD and Vermillion a better place to live, work, and develop a higher education. South Dakota Sigma takes pride in being leaders on campus both with academics and campus organizations.

In October, our chapter brought life back to our old volleyball tournament. In coordination with Beta Theta Pi, we successfully hosted and organized a tournament where 100% of the donations were given to Children's Miracle Network. In addition to our volleyball tournament, our chapter also helps with many different projects in and around our community.

Every year, South Dakota Sigma assists with the Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive in Sioux Falls. This year was no different. Also, our chapter helped with Salvation Army Bell Ringing at Jones Food Center located in Vermillion.

In addition to helping our other clubs and organizations, once a semester we host our own Welcome Tables at the United Methodist Church. Welcome Tables is an event where people from the community can come enjoy a free home cooked meal completely funded and served by us. This year we served a spaghetti supper and are planning on volunteering again next semester. We also like to mention that our house currently holds the record for hosting the consecutive number of times of volunteering for that event.

Once again, members from our house took time out of their summers to help with a successful Sioux Empire Fair Parking in Sioux Falls, SD. At this event, brothers help direct cars for parking during the outdoor festivities.

In addition to all of the community service projects, we take pride in having 90% of our members being involved in at least one other organization on campus. Within these organizations, our brothers uphold many leadership positions. Student Government Association, Student Ambassadors, Students In Free Enterprise, Pre-Dental Club, and Dance Marathon are just some of the many organizations where our members hold either the President or Vice President positions.

Even though we accomplish many community service/philanthropy events during the semester, we are

2010 Awards & Accomplishments

- ◇ Chapter Awards
 - Province Tau Outstanding Alumni Relations
 - Province Tau Outstanding Chapter GPA
 - SAE National Chapter Achievement
 - IFC Citizenship Pillar (Community Service/Philanthropy Excellence)
 - SAE National Alumni Relation Runner-Up
- ◇ Individuals
 - James W. Payer II-IFC Sophomore of the Year
 - Patrick Davis-USD Unsung Leader; SAE Foundation Scholarship

always looking for new ideas to help our chapter and community. If you have any new ideas, please feel free to contact our Eminent Archon, Justin Ebsen, or our newly elected Community Service/Philanthropy Chairman, AJ Michels.

An Anniversary To Remember

Last summer, South Dakota Sigma sent 6 representatives to the annual John O. Mosely Leadership School. However, this Leadership School was the 75th Anniversary and now holds the largest Leadership School attendance to date. The Leadership School is hosted by Carnival Cruise Lines and is docked out of Miami, Florida. On the cruise, brothers from around the realm come aboard the ship to learn from the best in our fraternity.

The Leadership School was 5 days and docked in Cozumel, Mexico. After the ship docked at the port, brothers have the entire day to explore the Mexican culture and indulge in the Mexican cuisine. The brothers from our Chapter took the time to bond by each snorkeling/scuba diving which they all agreed was an adventure of a lifetime.

However, brothers who attend the Leadership School also learn a lot about what other chapters are struggling with and what else can be accomplished as individuals and as a chapter. Carnival completely reserves entire floors and special rooms so our fraternity can host programs such as fundraising, recruitment, philanthropy, etc.

As soon as the brothers arrived back in Vermillion, they all say down and expressed what they would like to see in the future for our Chapter. They all brainstormed ideas on what our house should aim towards in the upcoming year and implanted new ideas that they picked up during the school.



Alumni Relations

As a chapter, we hope that we do the best with keeping your addresses and other contact information up to date as best we can. Last semester, we held a calling event where we tried calling everyone from the list to update our information. Unfortunately since our alumni list is extremely long, we made it 2/3 of the way through; however, we plan on completing the update next semester before the 100th Year Celebration. If you know of someone who doesn't receive any of our mailings or other communications, please feel free to forward their contact information to us so we can keep in contact in the future.

Last semester, you as alumni donated over \$1,900 into the 1911 Club. We are extremely grateful for the donations and we are proud to say that 100% of the donated money was used towards the formal living room project and the chapter room floor.

This year, our alumni relations program would like to request business cards from you for recruitment purposes and contact information. As far as recruitment, we would like to show the diversity of the career paths that you have all taken. If you have a business card, we would please ask that you would send it in so we can start developing a roster for next semester's recruitment.

Our chapter is proud to announce that we took home the award for the best Alumni Relations Program for 2010. At the annual John O. Mosely Leadership School last summer, our chapter is extremely proud to state that we were runner up for the Alumni Relations award. We plan on keeping all alumni in the loop when it comes to our house functions and major events in the future. Any ideas are welcome and we encourage you to keep us updated with any of your events as well.

In the bonds,
Justin Ebsen
Eminent Archon/Alumni Relations

