

2011 Fall Sigma Report

Sigma Alpha Epsilon, South Dakota Sigma

The University of South Dakota

By: James W. Payer II, 2011 Eminent Archon

From The Desk of the Eminent Archon

Greetings and Phi Alpha Brothers,

It has been another successful and astonishing semester as you will read in the officer reports. As a chapter, we have accomplished so much since our last edition of the Sigma Report. From academics to philanthropy, the undergraduate brothers have been putting in countless hours to keep our beloved Chapter the best Fraternity on campus.

On June 24th and 25th, South Dakota Sigma celebrated our Centennial Celebration in Sioux Falls, SD. There was a golf tournament to officially “kick off” the celebration at the Elmwood Golf Course and a social followed immediately afterwards. The following day featured a bus trip to the Chapter house for lunch and house tours. Unfortunately a week before the event, our Chapter house experienced flooding; however, it did not affect our celebration one bit. After lunch, we visited the best watering hole in Vermillion, Carey’s Bar. After reminiscing on the good ole days, everyone gathered at the Ramkota in Sioux Falls for our closing celebration and dinner. Past Eminent Supreme Archon Dr. Martin D. Wigglesworth and past Eminent Supreme Recorder Steven K. Pripke spoke about the past and future of SAE. Previous Eminent Archon of the Chapter also gave an update about the current accomplishments of the Chapter and individual brothers.

During the dinner, Steve Sikorski presented 25, 50, and 75 year member certificates to brothers from our chapter. Also, many other award presentations were made including Order of the Lion and Order of the Phoenix. The Province Tau Council and representatives from South Dakota Theta (Brookings Chapter) made a special presentation with gifts to our Chapter as well.

In addition to the Centennial Celebration, I am enthusiastic to share that South Dakota Sigma is truly the best Fraternity on campus and is stronger than it’s ever been. As a Chapter, we are well represented within our hometown communities, are leaders both on and off campus, and above all are True Gentlemen in our day-to-day lives. Our hard work has shown through our awards we have won on campus, in our Province, and within the entire Realm of SAE. We work hard to promote our ideals and morals, and are continually striving to break down the negative stereotypes of Greek Life and recruit the best individuals our campus has to offer.

Once again, South Dakota Sigma will be hosting Province Tau Convention, April 14, 2012, and we encourage your attendance if you wish to hear about other Chapters within our Province or if you are interested in running for a position to get more involved with the Fraternity. I also would like to extend an invitation to our general meetings which are regularly on Mondays at 6pm in the Chapter room. I hope that you find this newsletter informative and valuable as an alumnus of our Chapter. Of course, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact me at anytime at James.Payer@usd.edu or 605-491-6171.

In the bonds,

James W. Payer II
2011 Eminent Archon



The South Dakota Sigma Chapter made an impressive showing at the Province Tau Leadership School with 27 in attendance and winning 3 awards.

SAE Takes Control of IFC

During the InterFraternity Council (IFC) election last semester, our Chapter is proud to announce that we had three brothers get elected to office. Brother Chad Hahler elected the Recruitment Chairman, Marcus Mahlen was elected Greek Week Chairman, and Tyler Bloch was elected Philanthropy Chairman. After these elections, this puts our Chapter with the most officers on IFC.

House Improvements

During the summer of 2010, the South Dakota Sigma Chapter house began renovations upstairs, in the formal living room, and in the basement. Our Housing Corporation and donations made to the 1911 Club Fund were used to purchase new doors for rooms upstairs, paint for the hallways, and new washers and dryers.

Just before the Centennial Celebration, our Chapter experienced major flooding in our Chapter Room, Pit, the Downstairs Library, and Laundry Room. We had to rip out the laminate flooring and carpet, throw all the couches and big screen television, and remove the washers and dryers. Thanks to quick thinking from our Upper Council and Housing Corporation, insurance covered most of the damages. Also, many undergraduate brothers helped by volunteering their summer vacation or rearranging work schedules to help with the process.

The Housing Corporation brought in specialists to remove the mold and deodorize each room that had freestanding water. Also, most of the dry wall had to be replaced due to mold and water damage. New laminate was put down and high traffic carpet was installed both in the downstairs library and upstairs hallway and library.

Moreover, many improvements were made after the Centennial Celebration for our recruitment week during the fall semester. Many brothers moved in early to help trim trees, repaint the lions out front, and lay down mulch. Installation of a new flag pole was also donated by an alumnus of our Chapter.

Each year we focus on improvements to our Chapter House by your generous donations to the 1911 Club. In the future, we are envisioning renovations to our deck, improvements to our parking lot, and double pane windows to help with better insulation.

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 after our Centennial Celebration. Any donations are encouraged since all amounts are an accumulation and added to your own name instead of just the onetime donation. Any questions, comments, or concerns can be directed to Justin Ebsen at Justin.Ebsen@usd.edu or 605-480-3269. 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.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon “Raises The Dust”

During USD’s “Raise The Dust” themed Homecoming, Sigma Alpha Epsilon topped every Greek house yet again by having an astonishing 6 total nominations for Mr. Dakota. A total of 25 men were nominated by organizations on campus, and our chapter had the most nominated members from any other Greek house or organization on campus.

After the preliminary voting, we yet again stood out from the rest by having 5 of the 7 finalists from our fraternity. The 5 nominees were then required to write a paper, go to alumni events, and interview with USD’s finest. During the half time event at the Dakota Dome, James W. Payer II was crowned as the 2011 Mr. Dakota. James is a senior, Human Resource Management major from Wagner, SD.

Recruitment

Even with the high overall number of men pledging Fraternities, our chapter had the most young men sign bid cards. We maintained the largest pledge class on campus with a staggering 37 quality men pledging SAE. The upcoming semester, we have already had 6 new potential men interested and plan on pledging even more before the end of the year. Of course, if you know of a great addition to our Fraternity, please contact our recruitment chairmen Samuel.Haglund@usd.edu or Ryan.Palmer@usd.edu.

Scholarship Report

Although the rest of the Greek Chapters’ grades have yet to be released, Sigma Alpha Epsilon has received our grade report and are quite pleased with our results. The 2011 Fall Semester Active Member GPA is a 3.158 with a Cumulative Active Member GPA of a 3.180. The 2011 Fall Semester Pledge Member GPA is a 2.623 with a Cumulative Pledge Member GPA of a 2.827. The Overall Fall Semester GPA is a 2.924 and our Overall Cumulative GPA is a 3.109. During our annual Founders Day event in the Spring, our Chapter will reward individual members who have excelled academically in the Fall semester.

Philanthropy Report

During the fall semester, our chapter has been extremely busy working on making USD and Vermillion a better place to live, work, and develop a higher education. We participated in numerous events around campus and within the community to accumulate over 1,700 volunteer hours of volunteer work and raised over \$22,000. These events ranged from co-hosting a SESDAC dance with Kappa Alpha Theta, Highway Cleanup, Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive in Sioux Falls, Salvation Bell Ringing, and our continuing our annual tradition of the Vermillion Welcome Tables.

This semester, we plan on starting up new philanthropic events such as an academic calendar for Greek Houses, singing Valentines, and an Easter Egg Hunt. In addition to our new projects, our Chapter is also excited to yet again participate in the largest student run philanthropic event in the State of South Dakota, USD Dance Marathon. Currently, we have 5 brothers serving on the Executive Council: Aaron Oestmann (Overall Chairman), Andrew Boyd (Technology Chairman), Justin Ebsen (Fundraising Chairman), Mike Weckman (Entertainment Chairman), and Tyler Gilliland (Security and Logistics Chairman).

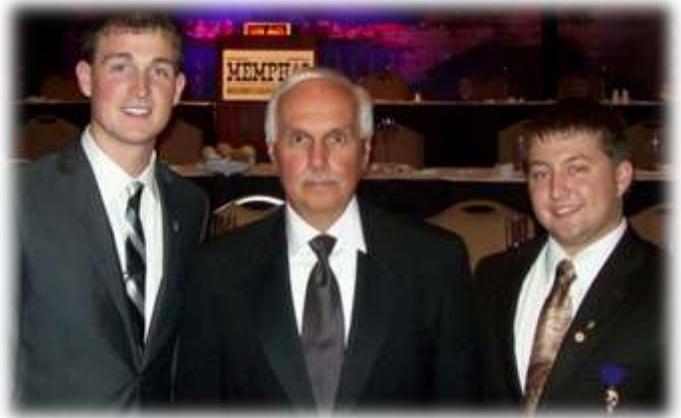
Dance Marathon is a fundraiser for Children’s Miracle Network, our nationally sponsored philanthropy. Each year, we have continually raised more money than any other fraternity or sorority on campus and we plan on continuing this tradition.

In addition to all of the community service projects, we take pride in having 100% of our members being involved in at least one other organization on campus other than SAE. 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.

An Anniversary To Remember

Last summer, South Dakota Sigma sent 2 representatives to 155th Anniversary Convention in Memphis, TN. James Payer II and Justin Ebsen, both past Eminent Archons of our Chapter, represented and voted on important decisions of our Fraternity on a national level.

In addition to electing our new Supreme Council and learning about what is impacting our Fraternity on a national level, Brother Payer was asked by ESA Mary Wigglesworth to serve as an undergraduate voice on the Credentialing Committee during the event. Brother Payer was 1 of the 4 undergraduate voices during the event. Today, Brother Payer also was asked by current ESA Ken Tracey to serve on the National Risk Management Committee which focuses on Alcohol Free Housing and member education.



Brothers James Payer II (left) and Justin Ebsen (right) represented South Dakota Sigma and Brother Steven Sikorski represented South Dakota Housing Corporation (middle).

Awards

At the 2010-2011 Order of Omega Awards Banquet and Awards Ceremony, our Chapter was well represented in multiple categories both as a Chapter and with individual members. We had 6 nominated in individual categories such as Outstanding President, Greek Man of the Year, and Outstanding Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, etc. At the event, we were awarded the Leadership Pillar which is a high honor on USD's campus.

During the annual Province Tau Convention, we once again swept the awards banquet winning an outstanding 3 awards. Our Chapter received Outstanding Scholarship Programming, Outstanding Alumni Relations, and Outstanding Pledge Education within Province Tau. Additionally, our Chapter went on to be recognized as runner-up for Risk Management nationally and won the Chapter Achievement Award. The Chapter Achievement Award is only given out to 12 Chapters nationwide.

The Inner Circle

The Inner Circle is an event for the top 25 young undergraduate leaders of Sigma Alpha Epsilon to meet and be mentored by some of Sigma Alpha Epsilon's most powerful, accomplished and influential leaders in business and politics. South Dakota Sigma is proud to announce that Brother James W. Payer II was the first ever to be selected from both the South Dakota Sigma Chapter and the state of South Dakota for the once in a lifetime experience.

At the 5th annual event, Brother Payer was able to meet other undergraduate leaders from across the nation and each member of the Supreme Council. The event was held in Prince Fredrick, Maryland at the Scarborough Vineyard and Event Center. Dr. Lloyd K. Everson Jr. (Vice President of US Oncology), Ed Fuller (President of Marriott International), and General Richard B. Myers (Former Joint Chiefs of Staff) were just a few of the prominent alumni in attendance.

Intramural Report

In the fall semester, we were exceedingly active in intramurals with competitive teams in flag football, basketball, and soccer. Also, our chapter has still kept Team Edith alive and has successfully kept the "tradition" alive by losing every game played. In addition to intramurals, our chapter has also assembled a bowling league team known as Team 5-Skins.

Leadership School

This past summer, South Dakota Sigma sent four brothers to attend the 76th John O. Moseley Leadership School. Brothers Alex Peterson and Mike Weckman were in attendance as well as neophytes Ethan Netz and Thanh Chau, who were both activated during the school.

The John O. Moseley Leadership School was held on Carnival Cruise Lines and sailed to Mexico and back. The men took part in group discussions, listened to nationally recognized speakers, risk management presentations, and gained knowledge with philanthropic events from other chapters across to Realm. In addition to learning about our Fraternity, the brothers also enjoyed themselves by partaking in karaoke, dancing, and relaxing by the pool and not to mention hanging out with members of the Supreme Council.

Pledge Education

Over the summer, I updated a few things about the pledge program and integrated some new content including brotherhood building exercises, which helped the pledges bond more. Also, we were fortunate enough to have the head of the Academic Advising Office come and talk with us about academic success in an open forum during a pledge meeting. In addition to these, we also had several opportunities throughout the semester for pledges to gain knowledge beyond the chapter house about how SSAE will help them in the future. The alumni brothers who came and spoke to the chapter were a lawyer and a financial consultant. We also thoroughly enjoyed our annual walkout trip to Evanston to visit the Levere Memorial Temple and appreciate those who supported us financially.

All said and done I feel that this year's pledge ship program was mutually beneficial to both the pledges and our chapter. I am truly glad that I had the opportunity to know and grow with these young gentlemen, and we are looked forward to their activation.

Thanh Chau
Pledge Educator



2012 New Officers

Eminent Archon:	Tom Crockett
Eminent Deputy Archon:	Tyler Gilliland
Eminent Treasurer:	Tom Bickett
House Manager:	Phil Becker
Pledge Educator:	Thanh Chau
Eminent Warden:	Ryan Blake
Risk Manager:	AJ Michaels
Kitchen Steward:	Ross Menking
Social:	Chad Hahler
Philanthropy:	Andrew Boyd
Eminent Recorder:	Marc Bury
Recruitment:	Sam Haglund
	Ryan Palmer
Alumni Relations:	Justin Ebsen
	Marcus Mahlen
Scholarship:	Nic Rhode
Eminent Correspondent:	Garrett DeVries
Eminent Chronicler:	Charlie Steward
Eminent Herald:	Alex Petersen
Awards:	Chris Jahr
Chaplin:	Sean Turgeon
Assistant Treasurer:	Tyler Bloch
Personnel:	Marc Bury
	Marcus
InterFraternity Council:	Chris Jahr
	Shane Barrows
Technology:	Marc Bury
Intramurals:	Alex Wheeler
Song Chairman:	Andrew Boyd
	Ryan Boyd

