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## Creating a Chapter Scholarship Attitude

by Arthur F. Buehler  
Ohio Rho

Amidst the rapid rate of change within universities, fraternity chapters throughout the country are recognizing the need for new outlooks in dealing with fraternity problems. In this respect, Ohio Rho chapter is no exception. Perhaps one of the most dramatic developmental processes symbolizing significant change within Ohio Rho is in the area of scholarship.

Six years ago, Ohio Rho Chapter lacked any type of positive scholarship attitude. Grades were solely an individual matter while fraternity was based upon friendships. This environment dichotomized scholarship and fraternity. This atmosphere was quite inimical to academic performance. As a result of this and other factors, Ohio Rho faced the threat of suspension.

Reacting to these serious academic difficulties, Ohio Rho underwent a serious self-evaluation during a Phi Alpha Weekend in 1965. At this time a series of stimuli were introduced to create a needed chapter scholarship attitude. Positive incentives included: 1) Fifty dollar awards each semester to the men with the greatest scholarship improvement and highest grade average, 2) An honors banquet for all men on the dean's list, 3) Larger swagger pins to chapter scholars, 4) Group study sessions in which each man worked individually but received help from others, if needed, 5) Men of similar curricula placed in rooms together. The negative reinforcement included 1) No man could be pledged or initiated unless a 2.0 grade average was maintained, (the 2.0 grade average is greater than the 1.7 grade average required by the university), 2) Any brother below a 2.0 grade average in any given semester was brought before the chapter in "Scholarship Trials." The results of such trials included spending specific study times at one's desk, tutoring, reporting of test scores to the Scholarship Chairman and 3) Initiating and enforcing a rigid set of quiet hours.

During this period of Chapter realization, this type of scholarship program functioned well. The program provided discipline to deter the poor academic performance and recognized the fraternity scholars on a chapter basis. A chapter scholarship awareness was created: academic success was rewarded while academic failure was reprimanded.

Scholarship was not only emphasized within the active chapter as such, but also during rush and the

subsequent pledge period. As chapter membership changed, the results of this program could be readily noticed. The chapter became aware that friendships and good scholarship could be realized simultaneously.

After a few years of scholarship realization, Ohio Rho's academic needs began to change. No longer was the primary function of the scholarship program to produce a preponderance of attitude and change within the chapter. By and large, this change had been already synthesized. Actualizing the chapter's scholarship level to a higher plane was the next challenge. This meant not only maintaining a chapter concern for good scholarship, but to create within the chapter the means for each man to achieve his highest academic potential.

Along these lines, entirely different concepts of approaching scholarship were developed. These can be summarized into two basic tenets: 1) the factors which discouraged poor scholarship were quite different from those which promoted good scholarship and 2) Each man had to be treated uniquely i.e., if higher standards of scholarship were to be instituted they had to be on an individual level as opposed to a chapter level.

The first step in this new attitude was to eliminate or at best de-emphasize negative stimuli inherent in the old scholarship program. It was found that preventing bad scholarship doesn't imply an excellent scholarship result. For example, one can enforce quiet hours to create an amenable study environment. This allows men with motivation to study. However, a man who is not motivated to study and/or who has poor study habits will not study on the basis of existing quiet hours. Another example is the concept of "scholarship trials." If a man achieves less than a 2.0 average in a semester, then reprimanding him before the chapter in the guise of "scholarship trials" can be a very humiliating experience. He KNOWS he has failed. To reinforce this feeling of failure in the onus of a "trial" could be the most destructive action the chapter could enact. If anything, this is the time when one needs maximum chapter support and assistance. These and other negative stimuli were found at best to act as a deterrent of bad scholarship, but not building a man's confidence and motivating him to achieve his scholarship potential.

With this as a basic philosophy, the new chapter scholarship attitude focused on the individual. With the assistance of a chapter scholarship advisor and a scholarship committee, the scholarship chairman began



## Scholarship (Continued)

to replace these negative stimuli with a more positive approach toward each of the men in the chapter.

The crux of these changes revolved around the scholarship chairman becoming a counselor (as opposed to an enforcer) in the eyes of the chapter. At the start of the semester, test scores were recorded for each brother. As soon as difficulty was perceived, the scholarship chairman would discuss the situation with the brother involved. Rather than reprimand the man for his performance, the scholarship chairman would discuss the underlying reasons of low grades, e.g., inefficient study habits, personal problems, and difficulty in grasping subject material. The beneficial aspects of this discussion were threefold: 1) The man knew someone was trying to assist him, 2) He got a better self-insight by talking openly about his difficulties and, as a result of these two reasons, he had more self-confidence and desire to develop himself.

It must be kept in mind that the scholarship chairman's role was that of a catalyst and co-ordinator. Most of the time, he referred the man to a few other brothers possessing the specific academic and study strengths necessary. This action allowed more men to become involved and to assist him. In this fashion scholarship difficulties were dealt with on an ongoing basis. As a result individual scholarship difficulties were prevented from becoming so insurmountable by the end of the semester as to become hopeless.

It is not meant to convey that Ohio Rho achieved scholarship utopia during the first semester of this new academic attitude. Many men, accustomed to the carrot-stick approach in scholarship continued to react defensively to the scholarship chairman and his ideas. Even though this new scholarship philosophy is still in its developmental stages and has its difficulties, it has proved quite effective.

As an added note, much of this conceptual background utilized in chapter scholarship has been found to be quite relevant to other areas of chapter affairs, in addition to fulfilling the ideals upon which Sigma Alpha Epsilon was founded.

## A National Convention Report

*The following is a report made by Robert Connolly, EA of Arizona Alpha, to the members of his Chapter concerning his experiences and observations at the National Convention last June.*

I hope I can relate in this letter my experiences at our Fraternity's recently concluded national convention.

The location was the elegant Sheraton-Palace Hotel which was bedecked with "Welcome—Sigma Alpha Epsilon" banners. Here, on Sunday, June 15, the convention convened with an invocation by the Rev. Joseph C. Settle, and a welcome by Rear Admiral Leo J. McCuddin, USN of Nevada Alpha, who incidentally attended law school here at Arizona. Each of the over

200 delegates were then assigned to committees. I, representing Arizona Alpha was assigned to the Finance committee, with Walt Roberson as Province Upsilon Archon assigned as chairman of the Resolutions committee, and Kent Morgan, representing the Tucson Alumni Association assigned to Chapter Publications.

After dinner, committee meetings resumed at 8:00 p.m. The Finance committee concerned itself with the study and approval of forthcoming annual budgets, the financial reports of the board of trustees and suggestions for improving the general operation. Our committee, one of 15, adjourned at 1:00 a.m.

Monday morning the convention reconvened at 9:00 a.m., with the Ritual committee's presentation. Changes in our rituals centered around modernization of wording and arrangements which we will discuss at a chapter meeting in the fall. The Time and Place committee then noted that the '71 convention will be in Richmond, Virginia, and approved New Orleans as the site of the '73 convention.

At 4:00 p.m., all convention delegates, alternates, and alumni group representatives boarded eleven buses for a tour of San Francisco. We drove past the twin-peaks area, Mission San Francisco, the Cliff House, through Golden Gate Park, the Palace of Fine Arts, the Japanese Tea Gardens, and across the Golden Gate Bridge where we stopped and held a brief ceremony honoring Brother Strauss, its designer and chief engineer. Two wreaths were placed at the base of his statue, which drew quite a bit of attention from the commuting traffic on the bridge.

We proceeded from there to Treasure Island, a point halfway across the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, to have dinner at the Naval Base Officers Club, hosted by Rear Admiral McCuddin. This was really first class, with wine, candlelight and an orchestra playing during dinner.

Incidentally, throughout the tour a helicopter followed our buses trailing a Sigma Alpha Epsilon banner.

All committees with business still pending met again at 8:30 p.m., mine finally adjourning at midnight.

The convention convened once again at 9:00 a.m. the following morning (Tuesday) with committee reports and broke at noon for Province luncheons. That morning was the most exciting from my viewpoint, as the Extension committee reported on twelve locals petitioning for charters in SAE. Charters were granted to the following institutions: University of Hartford, Adelphi University, C. W. Post College, Colorado State College, Middle Tennessee State University, Indiana State University, Tennessee Tech. University, University of San Francisco, Bethany College, California State College at Fullerton, and the University of the Pacific (Stockton, Calif.). New Mexico Highlands University has withdrawn its petition prior to the convention and the petition from Chico State College was denied. Each delegation from the petitioning locals had display booths outside the convention hall, passing out literature and tirelessly seeking each individual vote needed for the total 2/3 majority needed for the Charter. Each delegation was brought before the convention to learn of the convention's decision as announced



# THE LION'S SNORT



The 1969-70 school year will see many chapters celebrating anniversaries. The date of the founding of each is listed below with the celebration date, when known, in parenthesis: CENTENNIAL: Georgia Psi, September 1870 (March 19, 1970); DIAMOND: Illinois Psi-Omega, October 17, 1894 (November 1, 1969); California Beta, November 24, 1894; New York Mu, February 21, 1895 (Quiescent); GOLDEN: New York Rho, September 26, 1919 (October 4, 1969); Ohio Mu, October 2, 1919 (October 11, 1969); Ohio Tau, October 4, 1919 (October 11, 1969); Pennsylvania Phi, October 4, 1919 (October 25, 1969); Pennsylvania Gamma, October 6, 1919 (October 18, 1969); Montana Alpha, October 19, 1919 (October 25, 1969); Idaho Alpha, November 1, 1919 (November 1, 1969); and Oregon Beta, November 8, 1919. The Buffalo Convention of 1919 granted eight charters and rejected nine.

\* \* \* \*

We are proud to welcome our two newest chapters, California Sigma at the University of San Francisco, installed on September 20, 1969; and California Pi at California State College of Fullerton on September 27, 1969.

\* \* \* \*

Presentation of the second annual Award for Excellence in Community Relations will be made on

October 19, 1969 in Lexington, Kentucky. For the second year in a row, Kentucky Epsilon will receive a plaque and a check for \$1000. A similar grant will be made to the University of Kentucky. Announcement of the 1969 Award will be distributed to all chapters very soon and should be given special attention.

\* \* \* \*

A special announcement to Alumni Association Presidents. In the February 1970 issue of the RECORD will be a listing of dates and locations of various Founders Day celebrations. Plan your affair early and submit all of the available information to Mrs. Evelyn Grimsley at the National office by January 1, 1970, so that it can be included in the February issue.

\* \* \* \*

The data processing conversion, although not yet completed, is moving along on schedule with a minimum of difficulty or disruption in the National Office. EDP Consultants Pope, Brierley and Trangsrud have done an outstanding job and publicly receive our thanks for their dedication to SAE.

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The 35th Leadership School accommodated 169 students at the first session and 259 at the second, bringing the grand total of graduates to 11,052.

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Pledging reports are starting to come to the National Office from various chapters and it appears that there has been considerable success so far. There are two chapters in particular that have taken large pledge classes. They are Oklahoma Kappa with 64 and Tennessee Kappa with 62 new pledges.

## Report (Continued)

by Brother Roy L. Miller, ESA. As each charter was granted, the entire convention would leap to their feet and applaud while an organ and piano played "Come Sing." Some of the delegations reacted to the tension and emotion involved with speeches of "thanks," that really made each of us proud to be part of such a great organization.

Following the granting of charters, the convention turned to the election of our new Supreme Council. I think we elected a tremendously competent and qualified group of men with Paul Jacob, Jr., as the new ESA, Robert van Blaricom as ESDA, Joseph Mancini as ESW, Russell Heuer, Jr., as ESH, Neal Berte as ESCH, and Jack Hotaling as the new ESR. Chuck Trangsrud remains as the National Treasurer, with Rex Smith changing to Secretary of the Levere Memorial Foundation, and Bill Flournoy is the new Assistant ESR. That evening the new Supreme Council presided over a banquet and dance.

Wednesday morning, the convention reconvened to discuss 54 proposed changes in our National Laws which tended towards modernization and increased

chapter autonomy. These also, we will discuss at an early fall chapter meeting.

The convention adjourned for the last time at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 18.

I would like to express to each of you how TOTALLY impressed I was with the quality of the whole convention. Each of you would have to attend one such as this to realize how completely "#1" SAE really is! You'd have to meet the great brothers we have in other chapters throughout the nation and learn of their many accomplishments on their respective campuses. You'd have to meet the great alumni who at all ages have such total devotion to our perpetuation. You'd have to meet the fine members of the Supreme Council, business and education leaders all, who are tremendously qualified to run our National system.

In closing, we each are members of an organization that extends so much beyond just Arizona Alpha. There is so much offered, so many things we can learn and accomplish. Each of you should be proud to be an SAE, it's the GREATEST!



# Noble Notes



NOBLE LESLIE DeVOTIE  
Founder

The students at each session of the Leadership School are asked, at the conclusion, to evaluate their experience and suggest ways to improve the program. Matt Cusimano of California Zeta had the following to say: "As I leave Leadership School I think of this: Dear God, let me go back home and communicate with my Brothers what I am here; let me permeate the rest of my life with the goals, the ideals I have accepted, learned and dedicated myself to here; let me, in a small, quiet way, change someone's life in a more beautiful way; let me live up to the living ideals I have; above all, never allow me to turn my back on the changes I have begun here, or the beauty I glow with today. Let me live SAE and Phi Alpha. Amen. That is what I got from this school."

\* \* \* \*

A hearty welcome to the staff goes to Bill Stovall, Texas Epsilon '69, our newest Chapter Consultant. Bill will be visiting chapters and alumni in Provinces Epsilon, Iota, Mu, Pi and Psi.

\* \* \* \*

A highlight of the Installation Banquet for California Sigma was the attendance of Mrs. John O. Moseley. Her charm and wit added much to the evening.

Dr. James B. Puryear, Mississippi Theta '60 has recently accepted appointment by the Supreme Council as Educational Advisor for the Fraternity. Previously known as Scholarship Commissioner, this position now carries with it broader responsibilities for the development of programs and incentives of an educational nature and the stimulation of sound chapter attitudes. Jim is well qualified to assume this position and we look forward to a growing relationship with mutual benefit to all.

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The Leo Cades are concluding an African trip which has taken them to South Africa, Rhodesia and Kenya. They are now in Germany and will return to Oklahoma late in October.

\* \* \* \*

A special tea was held in the Levere Memorial Temple on October 7, honoring Mrs. Eva Hansen who has retired after almost forty years of service in various capacities to Sigma Alpha Epsilon. Over fifty of her friends and colleagues were in attendance and a Memory Book was presented to her which contained letters from former associates, members of the Office Staff and Supreme Council, and Brothers from throughout the Realm.

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The Levere Memorial Foundation announces the granting of three Tutor-in-Residence fellowships for the 1969-70 academic year. They are going to: Gary K. Morton at Nebraska Lambda-Pi (Nebraska), Mark I. Park at California Theta (San Diego State), and Douglas R. Marvin at Virginia Omicron (Virginia).

## The Phi Alpha of Sigma Alpha Epsilon

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