



The Sigma Chi Legacy

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4

JANUARY 2011

Upcoming Events

- Brothers Day February 19th
- Tri Province February 25-26th at Western Kentucky

A New Year and New Start

The Spring Semester is well underway and Epsilon Tau is gearing up for a semester full of events. The chapter initiated the Delta Theta pledge class during the first week of January and are now starting the first week of pledgship of Delta Iota under the leadership of Matt De-Carli. This semester brings much anticipation for the undergraduate chapter and the alumni as we look forward to the third weekend in February to celebrate Brothers Day. At Epsilon Tau it has become a tradition of team Gamma Xi dominance, as the pledge class has won six out of the past seven years and is looking to continue their winning streak and not fade into Gamma Old. The question remains who will stand in their way?



Sigma Chi first celebrated brothers day as a national event in February of 1981. It started as a day not only to celebrate our brotherhood but to honor the seven men who on a cold February evening in 1855 tried to reunite a torn chapter. It was at this meeting that they separated their old ties and resolved to create a newer, stronger brotherhood that would stand the test of time.

Fight the Good Fight

Jack Findley has a picture on his desk. It's a picture of a man who has given him everything he knows, even though they have never met. The picture is of Jack Morrison Findley, senior cross-country runner Jack Findley's grandfather. Since the early stages of his life, Findley has carried with him a part of his grandfather, not only in his name, but in his heart. The stories he heard from his father about his grandfather, fueled the passion for his work ethic.

"Ever since I was a little kid I was always told to work hard and do (my) best," Findley said. "I didn't just hear my parents telling me these things, I was able to see how my dad acted and how he worked so hard to build a successful business for himself and for the family and how he was consistent in it. And the stories of my grandfather, how he was the underdog, and how he was able to rise above, and how he would do that continually throughout his whole life." Some of the first stories Findley heard about his grandfather were those concerning his football days at Notre Dame. "It started at Notre Dame when no one thought he would be anything," Findley said. "But he proved himself there, as he did continually through his life. He never gave up and he was never satisfied. I fell in love with that early on in life, learning that through Christ anything is possible. When I intertwine my faith and the faith I have of what my dad does everyday and stories of my grandfather, I have created this world that I need to do the same. I took that into athletics."

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Letter to the Editor :

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Fight the Good Fight

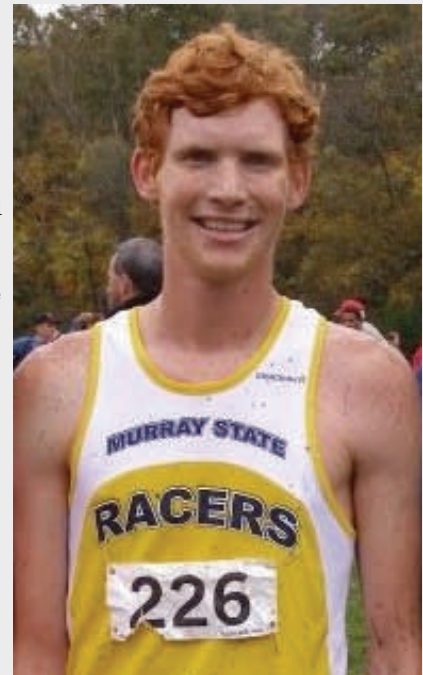
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Findley entered high school with the same passion for football that his father and grandfather both possessed. As a senior, Findley was approached by the coach of his high school football team at the University School of Jackson with a charge. "Coach came up to me and told me that if I gained a little bit more weight, he could move me to outside linebacker and defensive tackle," Findley said. "So I said absolutely. I ate a ton and worked out my senior year and had a blast. I got up to 205 (pounds), and had a great senior campaign. I did well for our team, and didn't want it to be over. I knew I could still play at another level, so I started lifting and doing things to prepare myself for collegiate football and I started to wonder if this was for me. That summer I began running off and on." That summer of running turned into much more than just a casual run every now and then, and after a phone conversation with a friend, he made a decision that changed his life. "One night I was talking to a friend who had lost a lot of weight running a marathon," Findley said. "He was a former football player and he told me, 'Jack you can do all these things in football, but its nothing like running a marathon, it's an adventure' and that sparked something inside of me." After he began running more often, Findley decided he too wanted to run a marathon. The next night Findley set a goal to run ten miles, and he did. "After that night I knew I wanted to run the rest of my life," Findley said. "I've never looked back." Starting college at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga, Findley approached the cross country coach, about a spot on the team of a sport he knew nothing about. "I really never knew what cross country was," Findley said. "I didn't really know much about it, I just knew it was goofy guys in short shorts. I started to wonder if maybe I was fast enough to run cross-country on a college team, so I talked to the coach at UT Chattanooga, and he just told me to try out." He quickly discovered the difficulty in becoming a runner at the collegiate level. "Those first two weeks running with the team was just a whirlwind," Findley said. "It was a culture shock at its finest. I didn't know what a workout was, I didn't know anything. I just wanted to be that guy that never gave up, who showed up with that same intensity. And that's really what I love about running, the intensity of it. It's a sport that's like an art of exhaustion (about) who can put their bodies to limit and keep doing it, that's why I fell in love with it. I feel like I've always been a runner, I just didn't find out until late in life."



After transferring to Murray State his sophomore year, Findley joined the Racers, and had two successful seasons as part of a program still searching for its identity, when tragedy struck in his personal life. "Cross country had just ended and we only had about a month left of school," Findley said. "I started getting this weird pain in my lower region and it was very uncomfortable. I had never felt anything like that before. I called my doctor back at home and they asked me to come in." Meanwhile, Findley began commuting from Murray to Jackson in between school and doctor's appointments. "I was actually in class on a Friday morning when my mom just kept calling me and calling me," Findley said. "I stepped out of class to answer and she just said head to Jackson. She said 'you don't have a option. They've got to run some tests, because what they've come up with, they didn't like.'" Uncertain of what was going on, Findley heeded his mother, and packed his things to return

home. "I got back to Jackson and my sister and brother-in-law were at the house," Findley said. "They said they would like to take me to the doctor, and by this time my parents were on their way (home). It was one of the only times I've ever heard my dad in tears, and he said 'son, its cancer.'" Findley was confused when he heard those words, but with help from people around him, he remained positive despite being diagnosed with testicular cancer. "I was really scared and really nervous," Findley said. "My sister and brother-in-law took me to the doctor, and all the while I'm in a state of shock. There was a huge amount of adversity right there, and I didn't really know how to overcome it, but with my family, there was just a huge amount of love, and my girlfriend at the time flew back from a soccer tournament that night. It just showed me how much love there is when you're really hurting. "I really turned it all to God, not that I would be healed, but rather that his presence could be seen in this, and that through this we could see his glory. When I started praying, I felt so much more comfort, and I was ready, I said let's do this. The doctor told me that I may want to give up my classes for this semester, and I said no we are going to get this done. My fraternity brothers were crazy; I was getting text messages and phone calls all the time from them. The support was everywhere, from cross country friends too." Once Findley returned to campus, he had missed about a week and half of classes, but was able to take the same approach for those last few weeks of school he had taken his whole life.



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After the semester ended, Findley had to switch his priorities back to running, and though difficult, he persevered. "After that, it was all about just getting my feet back into running," Findley said. "It was tough during December and January, my body was weak from the radiation. It was cold, and my lungs were on fire the whole time. I didn't really feel like running, but I knew it was time to start putting the work back in. I knew it was going to be tough, but I knew the end result was being able to give God the glory." After the summer, Findley had a major decision to make: whether or not he wanted to run his senior season. Following a state of limbo, Findley said the decision to run was obvious. "Honestly, I realized that this opportunity is only going to last for a couple more months," Findley said. "And I've gone too far now to just give in. A lot of me wanted to just take this last semester to just relax and be a regular college student, but there was something deeper down, I mean this is how I enjoyed college, just putting in the work and the pursuit of the art of being fast. I missed my teammates and I missed running with my friends, and we had some goals about some things we were going to do in the conference, and I didn't want to give them up." "It was a great decision, and I was very happy that I was able to get back on the team, and be a part of those goals we've set out. We've got a great bunch of guys who work really hard and encourage one another and it's a really neat thing to be a part of. Basically I came back because I want to work hard and I wasn't ready to give it up."

By Brother Ricky Martin



Epsilon Tau History Initiative



In the spring of 2009, Epsilon Tau celebrated her 50th anniversary with brothers from each decade in attendance. At this milestone in the chapters history it was recognized that our Chapter has a rich history and had long been neglected.. The history of our Chapter is told through, pictures, letters, awards, news articles and most importantly the stories of the brothers that crossed the threshold of her doors. With this realization, the chapter has begun a historical preservation initiative. The chapter currently holds several pieces of the chapters history in the Chapter Alumni room dating all the way back to the days of Delta Alpha but much of it is uncataloged. Under the initiative the chapter will be cataloging the memorabilia the chapter currently has and is also requesting any brother that has an article that he is willing to contribute to the chapter archives we would be more than willing to accept it for safe keeping. The chapter has already begun contacting alumni to interview brothers about their experience in Sigma Chi.

In order to make this Initiative successful we need the support from all the brothers to forward their contact information so the chapter can keep in touch. The more interviews and memorabilia the chapter collects the more the chapter will benefit for our history. If you are interested and would like to contribute please contact Charlie Westerfield at 270-348-6045



"For each of us knows that in the mind of the eager-hearted youth who for the first time assumes its blazon on his breast, the White Cross of our order becomes at once a shrine for the culture of that love which both Paul and Plato have lent the music of their words— an emblem of self-respecting manhood, and perpetual monitor inculcating, as the sole basis of honor, the lesson of truth, of courtesy, and of courage.

James Parks Caldwell - at the 50th Anniversary in 1905

Keep within the Circle

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