

Gardner Award Goes To Richard Foley



In December of 2005, a scholarship fund was established at the University of Illinois to

honor **Richard Hamilton Foley, '50**, to encourage incoming students from Paris High School or other high schools in Edgar County, Ill. who display and aspire to pursue a life of high moral character, integrity, leadership, personal discipline, dedication, determination, perseverance, loyalty, commitment, and service to country and community.

These are exactly the attributes that describe Richard Foley, the 2006 Gardner Award

winner. He has demonstrated a lifetime of service and dedication to his alma mater—the University of Illinois, the Illinois Eta chapter and his community—Champaign, Illinois. As an undergraduate, Dick played on the varsity basketball team that reached the Final Four in 1952. As a University of Illinois alumnus, Mr. Foley has endowed several student scholarships to assist graduates of his alma mater, Paris High School. He played an instrumental role in the fundraising for the Alice Campbell Hall, the University of Illinois' new alumni center. As a professional, Foley, as an associate in the firm Felmley-Dickerson, assisted in the building of Assembly Hall, the University of Illinois landmark



that hosts men's and women's basketball games and doubles as a performance and event center. Furthermore, as an invaluable member of the community, Dick is an active member in his church and served on the Champaign School Board. As an alumnus member of the Illinois Eta chapter of Phi Delta Theta, Mr. Foley spearheaded the recent Golden Legion ceremony to honor the members

who graduated fifty years ago and has played a chief role in numerous capital campaigns for his Fraternity.

The award committee was overwhelmed with the number of sincere recommendations for Dick Foley that included letters from

Congressman Tim Johnson, University of Illinois Foundation President Sid Mycek, University of Illinois Alumni Association President Loren Taylor, University of Illinois Athletic Director Ron Guenther, US District Judge Justin Quackenbush, Champaign Mayor Jerry Schweighart, Past President of the Phi Delta Theta General Council Doug Phillips, as well as letters from current chapter members, business associates, numerous Phi Delta Theta alumni, family and friends.

The words of Foley's Phi grandson, Michael Bell, '08, are a special tribute. "As a new member when I began



to learn more and more about the cardinal principles adhered to by Phi Delta Theta, I began to see these qualities more clearly represented in my grandfather. His friendship is shown every time I am with him. He truly knows no stranger, and if there is someone he does not know, he makes a point to meet and ultimately befriend them. His sound learning is

not only shown by his scholastic achievement while he was in college but by his continual intellectual pursuits long after his graduation. Finally, his rectitude is by far unmatched by anyone I know. Every single person I come into contact with who knows my grandfather will never fail to remark on his upstanding moral character and integrity. Without his living example as a proud member of Phi Delta Theta, I would not have been able to achieve and grow from all of the great experiences I have had in my college career."

