

The 28th Annual ΣAE World Series softball tournament brought together 16 all-SAE collegiate and alumni teams from across the country to compete in two days of double-elimination fun in the sun. On the hot summer weekend of July 19 and 20 in New Orleans, more than 200 Phi-Alpha brothers played softball and continued the annual rites of bonding through fraternity sports in a fun fashion. The games were professionally umpired and started on Friday night with some of the tournament's "we're in it to win it" powerhouse teams warming up against some "we're just here in New Orleans to have fun" teams.

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SLUGGING THE WAY TO THEIR SIXTH WIN

by Geary Mason,
contributing writer



The defending champion Nicholls State Alums team cruised to a 23-0 victory over cross-state rival LSU Alums, and Steve Birk's South Florida Alums team defeated the Nicholls State B team 31-0. Yes, that's a softball score, not football. There is no ten-run rule, so each team plays at its own risk of embarrassment. The Nicholls State active squad whopped Mississippi State actives 17-0, and across the softball complex the Southern Mississippi Alums destroyed the home team, the Rejects, 30-0. Later on Friday night, the ugly losers would get another chance in their consolation game and try to get a victory. In a game of two teams that had lost their openers ugly, New Orleans Host Committee Chairman Ron Rigamer's Rejects showed that their 40+ age was no deterrent as they defeated the Nicholls State B team 16-2 to eliminate the Nicholls team. The Nicholls B team's two losses by a combined score of 2-47 would earn them the tournament's Last Place Award. The Mississippi State team rebounded with a 14-2 win over the Rejects II team of older alums. In the winner's bracket, the defending champs from Nicholls State beat a tough team of actives from Southern Mississippi 13-4 to

advance to the semi-final round. Last year's runner-ups, the Southwest Texas Alums, had reloaded their roster after a few key players had to miss the 2012 event, and they came to reclaim their title that they won in 2011. Team captain Geoff Harris and his Southwest Texas team has played in every ΣAE World Series since 1995 and have always been competitive. Geoff's team started off with a 14-0 win over a solid Christian Brothers Alums team and showed no weaknesses in the process.

Softball play would resume on Saturday morning with consolation games starting the day. The Rejects team that scored the big win on Friday night couldn't continue their one-game winning streak and got crushed 20-2 by the much younger Southern Mississippi collegiate team. In their next game, Southern Miss shocked their heavily favored older brothers from the same chapter by scoring four runs at the end of the game to win 5-4. Meanwhile, Steve Birk's South Florida Alums had fallen into the consolation bracket, getting upset by the Southern Miss Alums 10-8 on Friday night. Birk has always been a master of motivation and rallied his squad to four straight



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- 1 **First Place**
Southwest Texas Alums
- 2 **Second Place**
Nicholls State Alums
- 3 **Third Place**
South Florida Alums
- 4 **Fourth Place**
Southern Mississippi
- MI** **Most Improved**
Southern Mississippi
- **Farthest Distance**
North Florida
- SP** **SAE Spirit**
Nicholls State
- BD** **Best Dressed**
South Florida Alums
- L** **Last Place**
Nicholls State B
- 🍷** **Bourbon Street Award**
North Florida
- 🕒** **Old Timer's Award**
Jack Coiron (Rejects)
- SB** **Steve Birk Dedication Award**
Adam Delia (South Florida Alums)
- 🔫** **Adrian Castilleja Young Gun Award**
Russ Cheramie (Nicholls State)
- 🏆** **MVP**
Entire Southwest Texas Alums team
(for Scott Lowrey)
- 👑** **SAE World Series Tournament Queen**
Donna Delia



victories, knocking out Mississippi State 15-3, the Christian Brothers Alums 11-7, Nicholls State 7-5 and Southern Miss 18-5. The South Florida Alums have played in more than 20 consecutive SAE World Series tournaments and won the event a record seven times. In the winner's bracket, the Southwest Texas Alums had to dig deep to defeat the Southern Miss Alums 15-12 and then defeated the defending Nicholls State Alums team 12-6 to earn berth in the championship game. Ryan McCann's Nicholls State Alums team had won last year's event by defeating Harris' Southwest Texas Alums team, and he wasn't ready to walk away easily. After the loss, the double-elimination format had the Nicholls State Alums face the hot South Florida Alums team with the winner advancing to the tournament finals. The South Florida Alums' four straight victories had taken their toll, as the younger Nicholls squad jumped to an early 4-0 lead and then kept batters moving around the bases for a 15-5 win.

The championship game was filmed and announced by tournament director Geary Mason to preserve the history of the event. The defending

champion Nicholls State Alums jumped out to a small lead, but the Southwest Texas Alums were clearing the fences and scoring runs consistently as the game progressed. Both squads had adequate offense, but Southwest Texas' ability to hit more home runs made the difference, as they won 19-12 to capture their sixth tournament title and become the 28th Annual SAE World Series Champions. Later on Saturday night, all teams converged in the historic New Orleans French Quarter for a post-tournament banquet and festivities that lasted until the wee hours. During the reception, special awards were given to teams deserving them, such as the North Florida team for Farthest Distance Traveled Award and the Nicholls State collegiate teams for the Most SAE Spirit Award. The New Orleans Alumni Association has hosted the event successfully since 1986, and all information can be found at www.saworldseries.com or on Facebook by searching for SAE World Series. Be sure to "friend" us on Facebook to receive important updates and information. We hope to see your collegiate or alumni team in New Orleans on June 20-21, 2014, for the 29th Annual SAE World Series. **END**