

FROM THE HEART

A PUBLICATION FOR ALUMNI OF INDIANA ALPHA ♦ SIGMA PHI EPSILON ♦ FALL 2012

WWW.PURDUE-SIGEPS.COM



690 WALDRON RECEIVES UPDATES

Alumni Corporation Assesses Future Housing Needs

In the spring edition of *From the Heart*, I mentioned our desire to hire a professional property management company. I'm pleased to announce that the Indiana Alpha Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon Alumni Corporation has entered into a facility management agreement with Executive Outcomes, a company specializing in fraternity and sorority housing.

Over the past six months, we've incurred more than \$100,000 in capital expenses and deferred maintenance. Capital repairs included new flooring in the corridors, fencing around the bum room exterior window well, which is a life safety concern, and installation of a new high-efficiency water heater.

The deferred maintenance list is unfortunately a bit longer, but we made many necessary updates:

- Comprehensive IT maintenance and upgrades
- Removing the old fire escape
- Repairing all shower units and toilets to working condition
- Purchasing new mattresses
- Painting the common areas
- Replacing missing small wares in the kitchen
- Repairing the kitchen ice maker, refrigerator, and oven
- Replacing fire extinguishers
- Repairing fire doors, upgrading lift safety egress signage, and many other small deferred maintenance items

As we move forward with Executive Outcomes, the alumni board is committed to keeping the chapter house safe and functionally maintained. With our membership numbers strong and the brothers fulfilling their obligations to live in the chapter house, we should have adequate funds to start chipping away at some more noteworthy projects than what's listed previously.

If anyone has comments or ideas about the physical structure, please contact me. We appreciate your feedback.

Fraternally,
John D. Weir '01
avc-president@
purdue-sigeps.com

Brothers, if you haven't read the November/December issue or *Purdue Alumnus* magazine, be sure to visit www.purduealumni.org/alumnus to read about **Frank Hereda '99** and **Wade Miller '02** who partnered with *Extreme Makeover Home Edition* to expand a family's living quarters and life opportunities—all within a week!



Brothers Unite for Homecoming Weekend



Forty-six brothers played in the golf tournament on October 12.

Homecoming weekend was another great time at 690 Waldron. Although neither the weather nor Wisconsin cooperated on game day, we still had fun. On Friday 46 people played in the golf outing. The weather was great and a good time was had by all. This year's winners were:

1st Place
with a score of 60
AJ Jones '02
Farhan Haq '02
Neil Heider '02
Jay Kissel '02

2nd Place
with a score of 63
JD Gaylor '12
Mike Coyne '14
Steve Coyne '14
Carolyn Coyne

On-course awards
Closet to the pin:
Jim Cassell '73
Longest Drive:
Michael Baye
Longest Putt:
Luke Gorski '04

started, so many of the alumni enjoyed time together at the house. There were a lot of good stories shared. **Jarod Overton '00** flew in from California but stopped at home to drive up his dad's 36-foot RV. We parked it on the front lawn between SigEp and Acacia. It was a sight to see and I think it might become a trend on campus. The rain forced everyone inside or under some type of cover, but many alumni stayed through the night. Overall it was a great weekend and we hope to see you next year when we play Northern Illinois on September 28. We're already making plans for the September 27 golf outing at the Brick Golf Complex, so mark your calendars now and join us for a great tradition.

HFF,
Jay Bilunas '99
Alumni Relations
avc-alumnirelations@purdue-sigeps.com
(317) 409-6070

Following the golf outing everyone went back to the house for a cookout and award presentation. On Saturday the rain held off until the game



Mom Nonnie Visits Indiana Alpha

Those alumni who lived at SigEp from 1992 through 2001 will fondly remember Mom Nonnie (Nonnie Cameron-Owens) as their housemother. “I didn’t cook and I wasn’t the housekeeper...just the ‘mom,’” says Nonnie. She returned to this year’s Homecoming only to learn that what was once her room, complete with flowered curtains and other feminine touches, has since been taken over by Chapter President **Mitchell Baye '13**. These days, Mom Nonnie is happily married to Bruce Owens and living in Punta Gorda, Florida.

Mom Nonnie recalls, with a big smile, “I loved being the housemother here.” She reminisces, “It has been so wonderful to watch the brothers grow up and now they’re fathers, husbands, members of the community... doing good.” Mom Nonnie adds, “Some of them have even apologized for being idiots back then.” Nonnie also remembers Nationals requesting “gentlemanly behavior” be included in the house agenda.

According to Nonnie, to be a housemother “you have to be cut out of a different cloth. It’s not easy living in ‘Testosterone Valley.’ I never had children. This is the way the Lord has blessed me with children. It takes a lot of patience and understanding.” When she was housemother, she lived by the philosophy “Let them be who they are but give them guidance and understanding. Be fair.”

Brothers who lived under Nonnie’s guidance for nine years still keep in contact with her through Facebook. She says, “I now get feedback. When they get a good job, they thank me. Back then, I would stand on a chair and give them a tip-of-the-day every day.” Nonnie also taught the brothers the finer points of etiquette. She adds, “As they have gotten older, they have come to realize and appreciate that I was here.”

She was always available to lend an ear when brothers wanted to talk about breaking up with their girlfriends. “They could talk comfortably to me. I mentored them, listened, and helped them get through the pain.” Obviously, Nonnie was very successful counseling the brothers, as she attended 23 weddings in 1999 alone. The brothers also looked to Nonnie to read and edit their papers for class.

Nonnie humbly downplays her role when she says, “I was just the mom,” though she planned special dinners and taught the brothers the finer points of etiquette along the way. She understands the brothers when she says, “While living in the house, they’re going through a transitional time in their lives—from being dependent on their parents to being on their own.” Nonnie loves seeing how well the chapter is doing now.

Story recorded and written by Karen Wilczewski, friend of SigEp.

Mom Nonnie Cameron-Owens with Wade Langley '00 and his girlfriend, Milly Robinson, at Homecoming.

SIGEPS WALK MEMORY LANE AT HOMECOMING

Thanks to Karen Wilczewski, friend of SigEp, brothers who visited Indiana Alpha during Homecoming had the opportunity to share their favorite memories for this issue of *From the Heart*.

Norm Nabhan '71 recalls a carbide cannon being set off one afternoon during a football game at the same time a police car came around the corner. “It sounded like a bomb,” Norm comments, adding, “We were on the front lawn watching the police handcuff a student. They took him to the police station and released him shortly after they discovered it wasn’t a bomb.” Norm also remembers a classic phone prank being played on new members. New members on phone duty would have to deliver messages to brothers in their rooms. In this instance, this message needed to be delivered to Room 9. Only after an extensive search of the second floor, did he discover there wasn’t a Room 9.

Norm has been involved with SigEp for the last 40 years, including serving as its national president about 10 years ago. Reflecting on his time with the fraternity, Norm says, “They were a great group of guys.” He traveled to this year’s Homecoming from Houston, Texas, adding, “When they say ‘friends for life,’ this is what this place is about.”

Dave Woods '71 wasn’t the first in his family to pledge SigEp. His grandfather, Ford Woods, class of 1910, lived in the house before the current facility on Waldron Street. Dave recalls his pledge class making a road trip to Ohio State University for a walkout. At the time, Purdue beat Ohio State 41-6. According to Dave, this was during the Woody Hayes-Jack Mollenkopf days, when his pledge class left a cow in the kitchen of the fraternity house. He adds that it was a “nice touch.”

Pat Gantert '72 remembers serving as chapter president and how **John Fox '71** was in charge of the kitchen. John’s official title was steward. Pat also remembers the house having a full-time cook, Ike Rogers. Pat recounts **Wally Brant '71** returning to SigEp with three snakes in hand after spending a summer in Arizona. Wally kept the snakes in his room and whenever a new member visited Wally’s room to do a wake-up call, the new member never knew if the snakes would be in their cage or if he would encounter them face to face. Pat recalls 93 brothers living at SigEp at the time.

Jim Cassell '73 and **Tim Hoestermann '73** have fond memories of performances by Tina and the Tune Benders. It was the late '60s and early '70s, when the fashion trend for men was bell-bottom trousers, platform shoes, and three-piece suits. Jim recalls one time when Tina and the Tune Benders, who specialized in “sha-na-na” music, were invited to perform on campus prior to an outdoor concert. The group introduced themselves to the crowd by throwing a hubcap on the floor, then going into their singing routine.

One of the antics Jim and Tim admit to, now that they’re alumni, is taking a fire extinguisher, filling it with water, and squirting brothers in the house. The police came and took the fire extinguisher away. Also, both were known for nicknaming some of the brothers in the house. For example, they gave **Kenn Reynolds '71** the nickname Pickle. Jim traveled to this year’s Homecoming from North Webster, Indiana, while Tim journeyed from St. Louis, Missouri.



CHAPTER CONCENTRATES ON GROWING MEMBERSHIP AND PHILANTHROPIC INVOLVEMENT

INDIANA ALPHA AT-A-GLANCE

Spring 2012 Academics	3,095 chapter G.P.A. (2nd out of 41 fraternities)
Fall 2012 Recruitment	44 new members
Manpower	108 members (8th out of 41 fraternities)
Fall 2012 Live-In Members	63 men

This year, the men of Indiana Alpha have continued their success and given me much to inform you about! We have made great strides taking the chapter above and beyond our standards and expectations. It is exciting to report back on all the great things we've been up to.

INDIANA ALPHA AT-A-GLANCE

By finishing second in academics, we topped the all-women's, all-men's, and all-campus averages for the second consecutive semester. We welcomed one of the largest fall new member classes on record and it is something we are especially proud of. Since the key to continuing our great traditions is excellent recruitment, we made sure to put forth every extra effort. Our manpower continues to be strong with great recruiting seasons like this. Another growing number is our 63 live-in members. With the improvements being made to the house, we expect this figure to climb.

CHAPTER HOUSE GETS NEW MANAGEMENT

This summer, IN Alpha hired property management company Executive Outcomes to maintain the facility and monitor improvements made over the summer. With their help, nearly \$100,000 was put back into the chapter house. Those who have seen the upgrades have been very pleased with the way it looks.

SIGEPS FOCUS ON SERVICE

Our chapter has also continued our great tradition of extracurricular involvement. Two of the 25 Old Masters' hosts were SigEps, several members serve as mentors in College Mentors for Kids, and the chapter has representation on its executive board. Philanthropy Chairman **Jake Neary '14** is partnering the chapter with co-ed service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega to perform various volunteer efforts and our intramural football team just claimed the championship title.

Through the support of alumni and family, Indiana Alpha has flourished and, thus, solidified our position as one of the top fraternities on campus. With standards being constantly upheld and improved upon, there is a bright future ahead for those who spend time at Indiana Alpha.

Fraternally,
Mitchell Baye '13
president@purdue-sigeps.com • (812) 340-3776



Astronaut Drew Feustel '89 with members before the Love Boat formal. From left: David Lesniak '15, Jose Rodriguez '15, Steven Kekeis '16, Tommy Payne '14, Drew Feustel '89, Mitchell Baye '13, Tyler Monger '15, Jeff Lawler '15, Evan Thoeness '15, Javon Rahmaan '13, Bryan Schmidt '14, and Steve Krause '15.

Indiana Alpha Invites You to Join Golden Heart Society

In an effort to support the many activities and successes of Indiana Alpha, the chapter has established the Golden Heart Society.

Becoming a member of the Golden Heart Society only takes a minute of your time. Just go to www.i-dues.com/PurdueSigEp to claim your membership. Entry to the society requests an annual gift of \$120, or \$10 per month, via automatic credit card draft. You can always make a one-time donation and donate a different amount. All contributions will go to the general

fund for capital improvements. Donating has never been this simple and painless.

All society members will be recognized in future issues of *From the Heart*. The Indiana Alpha alumni board has taken the lead in supporting this endeavor and all members have pledged to join the Golden Heart Society.

As we all know, staying on top is never easy. With united alumni support we can demonstrate our commitment to excellence to the active

chapter. Reflecting on the wonderful experiences and many friends that I have accumulated through Sigma Phi Epsilon inspires me to give back. I hope future Indiana Alpha members are able to enjoy the great benefits that I did. Please visit www.i-dues.com/PurdueSigEp to help make that happen.

HFF,
Craig Lill '02
clill1@hotmail.com



SPOTLIGHT ON RESTAURATEUR CHRIS KATRIS '00

Chris Katris '00 believes that his success has come from watching others and following their guidance. "I found someone who I wanted to be like and I emulated them," he says. "I found out what they did, how they did it, and followed their steps. Just like the common saying, the shortest distance between two points is a straight line."

Taking his own advice, Chris watched those who worked in the automotive industry and pursued his supporting degree at Purdue. After graduation, he fulfilled his original goal by working for Ford in Detroit. Realizing he wanted a different career and lifestyle, he watched the work of his father, George, who emigrated from Greece and became a successful restaurateur.

Chris replicated the actions of his father, as well as other established restaurant owners, and joined the family business in 2004. The Katrises now operate seven restaurants throughout Indiana under the name Lincoln Square Pancake House, specializing in breakfast and lunch.



"Here we are 15 years later and they've been my friends through everything."

Despite his busy schedule, Chris enjoys staying connected with his fraternity brothers. Though, he admits that when he was a freshman he didn't believe his SigEp brothers would be a part of his life after college. "Here we are 15 years later and they've been my friends through everything," he says. "When I was 18, I thought, whatever, sure I'm going to know these guys, but it really is the bond and the friendships that we had as undergraduates that last a lifetime."

He and his brothers typically take an annual guys-only trip, but now as everyone gets older and has families, the group will try their first couples trip this year. In addition to the yearly visits, Chris keeps in regular contact with **Jay Bilunas '99**, who designed his business card and website. "We make an effort to stay in touch," he says. "Fifteen years later I keep in touch a great amount of guys." Chris and his wife, Soula, reside in Indianapolis, Indiana. He loves sports, especially college football, and likes to bike and travel.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Jacob Backstrom
Cincinnati, Ohio

Matt Dyer
Highland, Ind.

Rashaad Harris
Easton, Md.

Dave McGlinchy*
Carmel, Ind.
(Father **Lloyd McGlinchy '78**)

Connor Rohrman
Indianapolis, Ind.

Matt Testa
Medfield, Mass.

Nick Baker
Indianapolis, Ind.

Andrew Evans
Wenham, Mass.

Tyler Ho
Los Angeles, Calif.

Logan Perdue
McCordsville, Ind.

Max Sanchez
Schererville, Ind.

Michael Travis
Walterboro, S.C.

Grant Boydston
Galesburg, Ill.

Brett Fitzpatrick
Los Angeles, Calif.

Jordan Jackson
Indianapolis, Ind.

Aaron Peters
Cincinnati, Ohio

Connor Sasse
Valparaiso, Ind.

Jake Ullrich
Indianapolis, Ind.

Nick Bressi
Ramsey, N.J.

Eric Gabbard
Palatine, Ill.

Geoff Jess
Philadelphia, Pa.

Matt Pfister
Arlington Heights, Ill.

Pete Seweryniak
Naperville, Ill.

Jack Wagner
Indianapolis, Ind.

Alan Chase
San Jose, Calif.

Milos Galic
Highland, Ind.

Steven Kekeis
St. John, Ind.

Alex Poerio
Munster, Ind.

Austin Shaw
Huntington, Ind.

Austen Wagoner
Dyer, Ind.

Marco Coppo
Rome, Italy

Andrew Goodrich
Portland, Ore.

Austin Konzen
Saint John, Ind.

Nicky Powell
Rochester, N.Y.

Sam Shaw
Valparaiso, Ind.

Max Wilson
Hobart, Ind.

AJ Dean
Hanover, N.J.

Adam Hamielec
Naperville, Ill.

Zach Mantel
Dyer, Ind.

Nick Pringle
Dansville, Mich.

Jake Springfield
Seattle, Wash.

Alex Young
Highland, Ind.

Alex Divietro
Elkhart, Ind.

Donovan Harris
Lafayette, Ind.

Mike Sugawara
Northville, Mich.

**Legacy; relative in parentheses*



Thank You, Loyal Alumni, for Contributing to Indiana Alpha's Spring 2012 Annual Campaign

We thank all the alumni below for their support of our spring 2012 annual campaign appeal. Our spring 2012 annual appeal resulted in \$10,250 from 98 contributors. The success and achievements of Indiana Alpha Chapter are directly attributed to the support and involvement of its members. The active brothers are grateful for and proud of the

support they receive from alumni. If an error has been made in recording the amount of your gift(s), or if we have mistakenly omitted your gift, we sincerely apologize. If corrections to your giving record are needed, please send them to tarar@penningtonco.com. Your generosity is making a difference!

Founder's Society
(\$5,000 and above)
John R. Grayson '46

Scott L. Robinson '92
Mark S. Meyer '92
James M. Anderson '95

Balanced Man Society
(\$1,000 to \$2,499)
Robert F. Kroeger '58
Scott R. Swisher '79

Golden Heart Society
(\$100 to \$499)

Edward R. Hyde '49
Jack V. Skillman '48
James J. Portteus '50
Thomas R. Sutter '48
William L. Reel '52
Robert G. Coleman '50
Dr. George J. Kottemann '51
Paul J. Skvaril '54
Jean C. Evans '56
Harold Shevers Jr. '57
Frank R. Snyder '58
Charles F. Christman Jr. '59

Brotherhood Society
(\$500 to \$999)

Jerome M. Matosec '45
Robert L. Mannfeld '47
John C. Weydert '48
Richard C. Anderson '49
Andrew G. Forrest '52
Rodney J. Henderson '68
Roger H. Day '69
Fred H. Beckman '82
Michael C. Turner '87

Bill M. Reid '60
Carl R. Willis '61
Donald G. Hoffman '62
James H. Muehlbauer '63
Robert H. Sheridan '62
Larry R. Horton '62
Byron H. White '64
George Pappas '65
Steven D. Derrick '66
John L. Knochel '65
Ted R. Sanborn '66
John E. Miller '66
Ronald L. Downing '68
Michael B. Hammer '68
William T. Rice '70
James S. Keller '69
Wendell D. Schultz '68
Norman E. Nabhan '71
Patrick K. Gantert '72
James R. Brown '73

James M. Cassell '73
James M. Lindsey, DDS '74
Thomas E. Everly '75
David J. St. Claire '86
Andrew J. Kofoid '88
Shane K. Platt '90
Eric D. Dodd '91
Zachary D. McCoy '94
John C. Vas '94
Jason R. Cosgrove '93
Kristopher D. Zambo '97
Adam M. Lyons '96
Ryan D. Jarvis '97
Jeffrey A. Anderson '98
Peter A. Dirindin '00
Benjamin R. Miller '00
Jarod N. Overton '00
John Weir '01
J. Matthew Brill '02
Craig S. Lill '02

Michael K. Phillips '03
Dustin R. Longest '04
Stephen M. Bryan '05
Paul J. Feldmann '07
Jason H. Williams '11

Donor Society
(Up to \$99)

Lee E. Gase '50
Lloyd M. Townley '53
William W. Welch '54
Leonard V. Pantaleo '55
William V. Dohr '59
Dale C. Hiler '59
Robert T. Thorson '61
Frank I. Ferrara '62
David D. Schoeff '64
Frank W. Forward '65
Thomas H. Bryan '66
Ronald L. Faris '68

Patrick J. Woodring '69
Stephen J. Zimmerman '69
Donovan A. Langford III '72
Michael L. Downham '75
Dennis C. Lange '74
Douglas D. Samuels '76
Mac. F. McGlincy '78
Martin P. Weissburg '84
James G. Annis '87
Ryan R. Gilbert '97
Jay Bilunas '99
John M. Neary '05
Robert R. Vrabel '06
Sean H. Birmingham '07

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING REUNITES MORE THAN 45 ALUMNI



SIGEP FRIENDSHIPS STAND TEST OF TIME

Tribute to Cancer Survivor Keith Morkel '72

“There is just no substitute for old friends,” Dale Roberts '72 shared in an e-mail to **Keith Morkel '72**. The message was sent following a September reunion between Dale, Keith, and **David “Rupert” Strong '73**. The friends got together in Cincinnati for their first face-to-face reunion in more than 40 years.

They reminisced about bonanza cube steak, bread-on-bread sandwiches, and the secret handshake. Rupert told stories of the road trip to Put-in-Bay, with a detour to Mansfield, Ohio, in hopes of seeing a “Keith Morkel Was Here” sign, and how Keith taught a fraternity brother a lesson using a pizza box and turntable. Keith’s favorite Purdue memories include the snowball fights between SigEp and Cary Quad, evenings at Harry’s Chocolate Shop, attending World Campus Afloat in 1972, and playing football for Purdue.



Along with the stories shared, so was support for Keith who was diagnosed with B-cell prolymphocytic leukemia in June. This form of leukemia is a rare, chronic, and aggressive type of leukemia. Amazingly after 12 straight weeks of chemotherapy at The James Medical Center in Columbus, Ohio, Keith was given the great news that his cancer was in remission. Given the aggressive nature of this disease, Keith received a bone marrow transplant in October, in hopes for a solid and cancer-free recovery.

Keith’s family and friends say that in spite of these medical trials, his positive attitude and smile have carried on. He is an avid Purdue and Cleveland sports fan, likes to play golf, watch movies, and collect antiques, and loves spending time with his family. He keeps in touch with Rupert and Dale, as well as **Rex Brown '73, Jim Cassell '73, John Means '73, Dave Strother '71**, and blood brother **Kevin Morkel '74**.

Keith retired in 2009 after more than 35 years with NCR, Compaq, and HP, specializing in sales and partner alliance management. He has three children: **Ben '05**, Rachel, and Annie, and resides in Kettering, Ohio, with his dog, Petie, a namesake of Purdue Pete. Keith’s progress can be tracked at www.caringbridge.org/visit/keithmorkel. If you are interested in donating bone marrow to others in need, please visit www.marow.org for more details.

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ALUMNI UPDATE

CHAPTER ETERNAL

R. Ed Steele '59 entered Chapter Eternal on February 13 with his family by his side. He was predeceased by his wife of 50 years, Sue, and two daughters. Ed is survived by his daughter, Ann, sister, mother, and many friends. He was a resident of West Windsor, N.J.

John D. Popovich '66 entered Chapter Eternal on August 13 after a courageous three-month battle with cancer. He was a resident of Knoxville, Tenn., and is survived by his wife of 44 years, Linda, their two sons, and five grandchildren. He loved to play golf and fish. Even through his chemotherapy treatments, he remained positive and always protective of his family. **Jeffrey Conopask '69**, who was part of a regular e-mail chain with John, **Steve Derrick '66**, and **John Treat '62**, shares, “In spite of some of our fiery debates, he was always a model of decorum and tried to calm down the rest of us. He was a very thoughtful brother, always looking for the best of everyone. He will be missed by all who knew him.” Steve Derrick adds, “Let John’s passing remind all SigEps, old and new, that the bonds formed at 690 Waldron are as strong as you want them to be. Make them meaningful and they will reward you, as John’s friendship rewarded all of us throughout his life.”

ALUMNI NEWS

John C. Weydert '48 served two and a half years in WWII before returning to Purdue and the great house at 690 Waldron. “Keep up the good work and the great times,” he says. John resides in Albuquerque, N.M.

Dr. George J. Kottemann '51 serves on the alumni board for Illinois Delta at Bradley University. He remembers when his pin mate, now wife, was serenaded with roses in 1951. George and Norma celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in June. They reside in Peoria, Ill.

Richard L. House '52 enjoys round and square dancing and volunteering at church and for Habitat for Humanity. “Life is good in the mountains of North Carolina,” he says. Richard and his wife, Eva, reside in Hendersonville. E-mail: richardhouse@bellsouth.net

John F. Derr '58 represents elderly and disabled long-term and post-acute patient providers in implementing the high technology legislation. He served on more than 10 committees developing health information technology policy and standards in Washington, D.C.