

FROM THE HEART

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

WWW.PURDUE-SIGEPS.COM



ALUMNI LEADERSHIP IMPLEMENTS STRATEGIC GOALS, SEES RESULTS

Merriam-Webster defines stewardship as “the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care.”

As a volunteer for Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity and Indiana Alpha, this weighs heavily on my mind. We are being entrusted with a 107-year legacy of an organization that has provided much joy and enrichment to the lives of its members.

The primary objective of our alumni board is to not only continue our great legacy, but to improve and build upon our past efforts without taking any unnecessary risks.

On February 25 we took an opportunity to gather as a board to discuss what steps we could take for the betterment of Indiana Alpha. Here are some changes that we are implementing:

1. Professional Property Management: For the past several years, alumni have commented on the poor condition of the chapter house and their disappointment with the physical plant. We believe that engaging the expertise of a property management company will result in greater facility oversight, resulting in less damage, less deferred maintenance, better

living conditions, and better occupancy. Not to mention, it will allow the alumni board to redirect our focus on mentoring the chapter.

2. Alumni Board Mentoring: By outsourcing the property management, the alumni board will have more time to engage with the chapter on areas such as recruitment, membership development, academics, and scholarship. We believe by proactively working with the chapter in these areas, we can eliminate many problems that plague other chapters.

3. Alumni Relations: Hopefully you will notice an enhanced alumni focus in this issue. While we will continue to provide updates on the chapter, we want to increase the focus on our own alumni. We also aim to increase participation in alumni events to reconnect and strengthen our brotherhood.

The alumni board serves at the pleasure of our membership, so please contact me if there is anything that you would like to discuss.

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



Blast from the past – a view of 690 Waldron in 1925.

INDIANA ALPHA AT-A-GLANCE

¹Fall 2011 Academics
2.99 G.P.A.
(2nd out of 40 fraternities)

²Spring 2012 Recruitment
9 new members

³Current Manpower
120 members
(7th out of 40 fraternities)

⁴Spring 2012 Live-in Members
58

INDIANA ALPHA RANKS SECOND IN ACADEMICS

Strength of Alumni Relations Program Grows, Earns Recognition

There are many things that happen within the walls of 690 Waldron Street that create a brotherhood lasting a lifetime. As many of you may already do, I like to look back and reflect on the great things that happened during my time at Indiana Alpha. The good and the bad, for better or for worse, our SigEp experience shaped us into the men we are today. Above is a grid with several metrics to provide a snapshot of the current condition of the chapter:

¹By finishing 2nd in academics, we topped the all women’s, all men’s, and all campus averages, a real step in the right direction for Indiana Alpha!

²In recent years, fraternity spring recruitment has been on the decline, with some chapters
(Continued on page 2)



Thank You, Loyal Alumni

We thank all the alumni below for their support of our fall 2011 annual campaign appeal. The success and achievements of Indiana Alpha Chapter are directly attributed to the support and involvement of its members. The active brothers are grateful and proud of the support they receive from alumni. Our fall 2011 annual appeal resulted in \$8,625 from 82 contributors. 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

Indiana Alpha Society
(\$2,500 to \$4,999)
Your Name Here

Balanced Man Society
(\$1,000 to \$2,499)
Your Name Here

Brotherhood Society
(\$500 to \$999)
Chad B. Ciesil '93
Matthew R. Foster '94

Golden Heart Society
(\$100 to \$499)
Jerome M. Matosec '45
Thomas A. Wiley Jr. '48
Robert L. Mannfeld '47
Donald F. Smith '48
Thomas R. Sutter '48
John C. Weydert '48
Raymond S. Stephens '49
James J. Porteus '50
Vernon L. Reed '54
Monte G. Goodwin '55
John F. Derr '58
Robert F. Kroeger '58
Charles F. Christman '59
David S. McMichael '59
Sanford V. H. Olson '59

Ryan E. Steele '59
Kenneth E. Field '60
Carl R. Willis '61
James H. Muehlbauer '63
Robert H. Sheridan '62
John R. Treat '62
Thomas L. Stahly '63
Lawrence K. Volland '63
Kenneth A. Campbell '64
Robert L. Flint '64
Fred C. Lash '66
John K. Oelslager '66
Ronald L. Downing '68
Michael A. Gilbert '68
Rodney J. Henderson '68
Gregory L. Rinehart '68
Roger H. Day '69
Tim A. Nelson '69
Larry D. Morelock '71
John R. Fields '72
James H. Ham III '72
Patrick K. Gantert '72
Charles R. Reeves '73
Michael L. Davis '77
Douglas M. Nabhan '77
Scott R. Swisher '79
Anthony M. Bennett '81
Fred H. Beckman '82
Bradley S. Vice '85
Andrew J. Feustel '89
David E. Hetrick '89
John A. Kacsur '90
Mark S. Meyer '92
John C. Vas '94

James M. Anderson '95
Michael J. Bilder '98
Andrius J. Galinis, M.D. '98
Capt. Jarod N. Overton '00
John D. Weir '01
Michael K. Phillips '03

Donor Society
(Up to \$99)
Robert A. Von Behren '43
Robert G. Coleman '50
Lee Gase '50
David B. Meinhardt '54
Larry E. Close '57
William V. Dohr '59
Richard F. Trowbridge '59
David L. Naugle '61
Frank L. Wellwerts '61
Frank I. Ferrara '62
Gilbert J. Frey '66
E. Dana Smith '66
Charles R. Deible '68
Patrick J. Woodring '69
J. Michael Volpp, DVM '70
Gregory B. Foust '72
Donovan A. Langford III '72
Michael L. Downham '75
Richard Schroeder '82
Jason R. Cosgrove '93
D. Eric Fry '00
Craig S. Lill '02
Grant R. Lohse '02
Dustin R. Longest '04
Matt B. Macnak '08

INDIANA ALPHA RANKS SECOND IN ACADEMICS

(Continued from page 1)

even electing to no longer take a spring new member class. We believe that this is an opportunity for SigEp to gain exposure and increase our spring recruitment pool. Be on the lookout for improvement in this area.

³Our manpower continues to be strong and we are consistently around the 120 member mark.

⁴Spring live-in numbers are typically lower than fall levels due to 5th year seniors graduating mid-year and in some cases, members who do not meet membership standards are required to move out.

We have continued our support of philanthropic events. We have planned a new event for the spring semester, headed by **Jake Neary '14**, benefiting the Salvation Army. Our involvement with Big Man on Campus has been extraordinary this year, resulting in our candidate raising \$3,000 dollars.

At the Carlson Leadership Academy this February, our chapter was recognized by the National Fraternity for having issued three alumni newsletters in the past year. Our award is a tribute to the alumni and friends like you that we reach out to, for without you, we would not have a chapter or a chapter house.

While this is just the beginning of my adventure as President, I am proud to have been selected by my peers and have the support of the Alumni and Volunteer Corporation. During my term, I look to improve upon the legacy created by those who have walked through the red doors of 690 Waldron.

Fraternally,
Mitchell Baye '13
Chapter President
president@purdue-sigeps.com

2012 Chapter Officers

President
Mitchell Baye '13

V.P. of Development
Drew Ficken '14

Chaplain
Javon Velacruz-Rahmaan '13

V.P. of Programming
Tommy Payne '14

V.P. of Recruitment
Alex Porucznik '14

Risk Manager
Jimmy White '14

V.P. of Finance
J.D. Gaylor '12

V.P. of Communications
Jake Sobek '14

House Manager
Carter Lundy '14





DANA SMITH '66 GAINED GOOD LIFE SKILLS AT INDIANA ALPHA

Still with the fire to help others, **E. Dana Smith '66** has put the “good life skills” learned at Indiana Alpha to use throughout his adulthood.

“There’s no question that Indiana Alpha taught me networking skills. The recruitment process in itself is a matter of meeting people and selling yourself, making them want to invite you and making others want to join you.”

“It’s one of the great things about the fraternity. Get to know the alumni, see who you can work with and who can give you leads,” he says. “Learn to network. Anyone can shake a hand, but to sit back and get good information from the person is an acquired skill.”

He also credits his undergraduate years for giving him a foundation in business. He received his degree in industrial economics and learned the budget process through serving as a chapter officer at SigEp.

Dana has combined these life skills to serve and help others. When he returned to Lafayette in 1976 he joined the alumni board, donating his time for nearly 15 years. In his professional life, he served as president of

the Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce for 20 years. “As president, I was responsible for directing the business community, making things better in the community to attract more people. I worked a lot with Purdue to build relationships.”



He now dedicates his time to serving on nonprofit boards doing SCORE counseling, a method organized and funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration. Dana mentors people looking to start a new business. “It’s interesting. It makes people realize that owning a business is much more than it seems; a lot of legwork that you don’t think about.”

Dana retired in 2010 and lives in West Lafayette, Indiana with his wife, Maggie. He enjoys an annual golf trip to Florida with close friend **Ted Hazledine '65** for what they call “spring training.” Dana says Purdue football has helped keep them in touch, as Dana hardly misses a game. Even though distance keeps many brothers apart, Dana looks forward to chapter reunions and newsletter updates. “I was able to reconnect with **John Treat '66** because of the fall issue, and hope the same results will happen for me.” E-mail: danasmith1501@yahoo.com

EARLY MORNING MEMORIES AMONG FAVORITES FOR ERIC FRY '00

Eric Fry '00 had heard good things about Sigma Phi Epsilon and after getting to know the members the ball kept rolling.

“I was living off-campus with a buddy from my hometown and realized right away that was a mistake,” he says. “I went through recruitment spring semester [of my] freshman year to meet people and got along great with the guys at SigEp.”

“The three years I spent in the chapter were very important to my development and that time made me a better person. We need to keep that foundation, that tradition there for future brothers.”

“Being in a fraternity just makes college more interesting,” he says. “You have a group of friends to share your four years with.” One of Eric’s favorite memories is of breakfast club, a

pre-game tradition for home football games involving early mornings, costumes, and **Jay Bilunas '99** dressed as the Hamburglar. Eric also remembers winning the inaugural caps tournament championship with his teammate **Frank Hereda '99**, as well as all the good times he had with his Room 7 roommates, **Jason Hebert '00**, **Pete Dirindin '00**, and **Brad Henderson '00**.

“It’s easy to make an excuse that you’re too busy to keep in touch, but I feel like that’s an easy way out. There should be effort involved to enjoy those friendships built in college. It’s important to have good people and friends in your life.” Eric keeps in touch with Brad Henderson, Pete Dirindin, Jay Bilunas, **Matt “Diesel” Slaats '99**, **Rob Pierce '00**, and **Ben Miller '00**, and lives within a half mile of **Craig Lill '02**, making it easy for weekly get-togethers.

The three years I spent in the chapter were very important to my development and that time made me a better person. We need to keep that foundation, that tradition for future brothers.”

“Make sure you value your time in college. It’s going to be gone before you know it.”



Eric and his wife, Sarah, live in Austin, Texas. After graduating with a bachelor’s degree in athletic training, he received his master’s degree in higher education administration from the University of Wisconsin. He has since worked in the athletic departments at the University of Denver, University of Colorado, and University of Kentucky, and joined the University of Texas in 2009. He is the athletic trainer for men’s basketball and travels regularly. When home, he enjoys running, road biking, snow skiing, and listening to live music.



IN MEMORIAM

David P. Gootee '67

David P. Gootee '67 entered Chapter Eternal on January 22 at 66 years of age. Devoted to his community, David served many organizations, such as Franklin Township Civic League, Buck Creek Players, Our Town Players, Booth Tarkington Indianapolis Civic Theater, and the Indianapolis Zoo. He served as board member and chairman during the zoo's relocation. David also held many roles within the Catholic church.

In 2002, he retired as chairman of Global Finance from Eli Lilly and Company in Indianapolis after 35 years. In retirement, he served as chief financial officer at Stone Belt in Bloomington and worked for the State of Indiana.

David enjoyed making model ships and was an accomplished woodworker and stained glass artist. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Sandra Myers, and their six children and their families.

Kyle Rhodes '06

Kyle Rhodes '06 entered Chapter Eternal on May 19, 2011, as the result of an industrial workplace accident. After graduating from Purdue's School of Technology, he joined Fairfield Manufacturing as the area manager of shipping and receiving. He married Jill Bennett in June 2006, and they welcomed their daughter, Elizabeth, in June 2009.

A scholarship fund has been established to ensure funding for Elizabeth's higher education. On June 3 there will be a golf outing benefitting the Elizabeth Rhodes Fund. 50% of proceeds collected for this golf outing will also be donated to the United Way. If you would like to contribute in Kyle's memory and ensure Elizabeth has a chance to be a future Boilermaker, please make checks payable to the Elizabeth Rhodes Fund and send to 2299 Cushing Drive, West Lafayette, IN 47906.



Blast from the Past

We enjoy seeing old pictures such as these. If you have some to share, e-mail them to **Jay Bilunas '99** at avc-alumnirelations@purdue-sigeps.com. Have fun looking at these photos and taking a trip down memory lane.





Brothers, You Keep Indiana Alpha Strong

Support Your Chapter through Alumni Board, SigEp Headquarters

We are so grateful for your support and thankful to the alumni who have contributed to Indiana Alpha. We want to clarify your donor options and help you understand your choices for future gifts.

Send Your Donations to Indiana Alpha

Gifts sent directly to Indiana Alpha are used for general house upkeep and renovation projects. These donations help us with daily operations of the house and complete any needed maintenance. Large portions of the funds collected last year were used to repair our red tile roof. The roof can be costly to maintain, but it's worth the expense to preserve the traditional look of 690 Waldron. Checks can be made out to Sigma Phi Epsilon Alumni Corporation or SigEp Alumni.

Indiana Alpha, Sigma Phi Epsilon
1075 Broad Ripple Ave • Suite 302 • Indianapolis, IN 46220

Send Your Donations to SigEp Headquarters

Gifts sent to SigEp Headquarters are not handled by the chapter; however, they do benefit Indiana Alpha if marked as such. By sending your donations to SigEp Headquarters, you have the ability to direct your gift to one of two funds: IN Alpha Scholarship, providing aid to our undergraduate members, or IN Alpha Direct, the general purpose fund for the chapter.

Checks sent to headquarters should be made out to Sigma Phi Epsilon Educational Foundation. Please note your fund of choice by writing **IN Alpha Scholarship** or **IN Alpha Direct** in the memo line of the check.

Sigma Phi Epsilon Educational Foundation
Zollinger House • 310 South Boulevard • PO Box 1901 • Richmond, VA 23218

IN Alpha Scholarship Fund—How Your Gift Helps

A variety of scholarship funds have been established to assist our undergraduate members. The annual Brotherhood Scholarship awards are given to a qualified member from each pledge class. Nominations and selections are handled by the undergraduates and approved by the alumni board. The alumni board then notifies SigEp Headquarters and the scholarships are awarded in the spring.

Freshmen are eligible for a \$500 scholarship, sophomores (two semesters completed) are eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship, juniors (four semesters completed) are eligible for a \$1,500 scholarship, and seniors (six semesters completed) are eligible for a \$2,000 scholarship.

The Semester Academic awards are given as recognition and incentive to each member and new member who have achieved academic success and are in good standing. Men who earn a 3.5-3.99 G.P.A. are each awarded \$50 and those who earn a 4.0 G.P.A. receive \$100. Additionally, the active member and new member who have the greatest improvements in G.P.A. each receive \$50.

Your generous donations to the IN Alpha Scholarship fund at SigEp Headquarters help fund the scholarship program and reward our undergraduates for their academic achievements.

Fraternally,

Jay Bilunas '99

V.P. of Alumni Relations

(317) 409-6070 / avc-alumnirelations@purdue-sigeps.com

CHAPTER ETERNAL

Robert E. Layton '48 entered Chapter Eternal on October 20, 2009. He was 94 years old.

David P. Gootee '67 entered Chapter Eternal on January 22. He was a resident of Indianapolis, Ind.

Kyle Rhodes '06 entered Chapter Eternal on May 19, 2011.

ALUMNI NEWS

W. Graham Duncan '57 enjoys traveling with family. He and his wife, Mary Alice, flew to Hawaii for a trip and plan to take an Alaskan cruise to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Due to a fall four and a half years ago, he sustained a closed brain injury. Doing well, Graham says, "I enjoy getting e-mails." E-mail: kentuckian35@aol.com

C. Rae Willis '61 lives with his wife, Candace, at Falmouth Airpark on Cape Cod and looks forward to the 50th reunion at Purdue this year. E-mail: raewillis@verizon.net

Kendall S. Smith '68 was appointed executive director of the Art Museum of Greater Lafayette. He resides in West Lafayette, Ind. E-mail: kendall@artlafayette.org

Wesley E. Shimanek '79 is a product manager for Intel Corporation. He and his wife, Kathleen, reside in The Hills, Texas, and have one child, Kyle. E-mail: wes@shimanek.com

Capt. Jarod N. Overton '00 is a commanding officer for the USMC. He resides in Newport Beach, Calif. E-mail: jarod_overton@yahoo.com

Edward M. Sheehan '08 works for Kiewit Pacific Structures in Portland, Ore. E-mail: emsheeha@purdue.edu

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Thomas Biel	Chesterton, IN
Eduardo Cabral	Santa Cruz, Bolivia
Daniel Fleming	Lafayette, IN
Ian Huston	Indianapolis, IN
Austin Kuhn	Carmel, IN
Cameron Pate	Indianapolis, IN
Deep Patel	Schaumburg, IL
Jose Taborga	Santa Cruz, Bolivia
Evan Thoennes	Fishers, IN

SAVE THE DATE

ALUMNI GOLF OUTING AND TAILGATE OCTOBER 12

Mark your calendars to join us for our annual golf outing at 1 p.m. on Friday, October 12, at Ackerman Hills Golf Course at the Birck Boilermaker Golf Complex (1300 Cherry Lane, West Lafayette). For more information, contact **Jay Bilunas '99** at avc-alumnirelations@purdue-sigeps.com or (317) 409-6070.



HOMECOMING OCTOBER 12-14

Join your brothers for Homecoming.

Hotel reservations are going quick. Below are several hotel options for your convenience.

- Union Club Hotel (765) 494-8913
- Campus Inn West Lafayette (765) 743-9661
- Hilton Garden Inn West Lafayette Wabash Landing (765) 743-2100
- Holiday Inn Lafayette-City Centre (765) 423-1000
- Family Inns of America (765) 932-8383
- University Plaza Hotel (765) 463-5511 (\$113 and below)
- Days Inn And Suites Lafayette (765) 446-8558 (\$63 and below)

Please contact **Jay Bilunas '99** at avc-alumnirelations@purdue-sigeps.com or (317) 409-6070 or **Jarod Overton '00** at jarod_overton@yahoo.com or (317) 496-2830 with any questions.



PARENTS' WEEKEND SEPTEMBER 15

All parents are encouraged to stop by the house September 15 for Parents' Weekend.

FROM THE HEART

A PUBLICATION FOR ALUMNI OF INDIANA ALPHA ◆ SIGMA PHI EPSILON



Indiana Alpha Chapter of SPE Alumni Corporation

Room 9 Services
P.O. Box 6163
Lafayette, IN 47903

Address Service Requested

PSRST
FIRST CLASS
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PAID
LAWRENCE, KS
PERMIT #570

Attention: This newsletter is intended for Indiana Alpha alumni and parents.

If your son is still attending Purdue University, he will receive a copy at the chapter house. If he is no longer in school, please send his permanent address to tarar@penningtonco.com.

DON'T FORGET TO JOIN US OCTOBER 12-14

FOR THE INDIANA ALPHA ALUMNI GOLF OUTING AND HOMECOMING CELEBRATION!

