

FROM THE HEART

A PUBLICATION FOR ALUMNI OF INDIANA ALPHA ♦ SIGMA PHI EPSILON ♦ FALL 2015

WWW.PURDUE-SIGEPS.COM



Brian Todd '97 took this beautiful picture of our house.

INDIANA ALPHA GROWS EVEN STRONGER ALUMNI AND UNDERGRADUATES WORK TOWARD THE FUTURE

It is with a great sense of encouragement that I write to you about the state of our chapter. After a great deal of hard work by undergraduates and alumni alike over the summer and during the first several weeks of the fall semester, I had the good fortune last night of giving the interpretation for the Sigma Rite of Passage to 34 new members.

For those alumni that are unaware, our chapter was put on student organization probation in late 2013 for a period that runs through May 2017. In addition, we were restricted from having any alcohol in the chapter house or property or from sponsoring or co-sponsoring any function with alcohol through May 2016. Despite what would be considered by many to be an insurmountable roadblock, our men set out with a mindset that this was an opportunity to recruit other men to start a new fraternity, one with a rich 110 years of history at Purdue and one based upon virtue, diligence, and brotherly love. The undergraduates and alumni who took part in the daunting task of recruitment under these conditions should be commended and will forever be memorialized into our local history as the reason our great chapter survived yet another

near tragedy and turned the corner toward a bright new future.

From a membership perspective, our chapter had approximately 125 active members in late 2013 when the joint Sigma Phi Epsilon/Purdue member review team interviewed our young men. The intent of the interviews was to determine who was enabling or what led to the university sanctions/probation and who would lead our chapter forward. After the interviews and proceedings were completed in early 2014, approximately 60 percent, or 75 active members, had their membership suspended until graduation. With the unrest over the removal of over half of the new member class and a number of influential brothers, as well as the perceived likelihood that our chapter would close, our chapter saw its numbers dwindle from 50 down to approximately 24 last spring.

However, undergraduates, Indiana Alpha Alumni, and the National Fraternity simply would not accept that the only option was to close. There were good young men and leaders that remained, and by pooling resources, time, and money, the team was able to accomplish

great things in the areas of cost control, room renovations, facilities remediation, scholarship, ritual, and recruitment. Much of the renovation and facilities remediation work was a result of well-timed loan money, CIF fund dollars, insurance proceeds, and alumni donations. What was available was utilized to the full extent and combined with countless alumni hours; a lot of money was actually saved. The 34 new members we recruited this fall signal a university-wide perception of our chapter's recovery, and as we shift our focus to the reinstallation of the nationally accepted Balanced Man Program, we are encouraged by the opportunity to ensure our gains will withstand the test of time. This development program will deliver a one-of-a-kind opportunity to teach young men skills that will not only prepare them for the ever-changing job market, but for life after college and the challenges that that brings.



Fraternally,
Brian Rodell '99
Alumni Volunteer Corporation
President
avc-president@purdue-sigeps.com



David Huhnke '83 Finds Volunteering for Sigma Phi Epsilon Rewarding *Alumnus Gives Back Time to Indiana Alpha*

As a former district governor for Sigma Phi Epsilon and a current member on AVC, it's apparent that **David Huhnke '83** is passionate about the organization and the Indiana Alpha Chapter. He says the most rewarding part about his role is simply advising the chapter and watching the men grow.

"They develop in their leadership roles," David says. "I enjoy the one-on-one talks with the men, and although each situation is different—some good, some bad—I enjoy watching the men mature and grow into promising leaders."

As an undergraduate, his favorite part about being a SigEp was living in the house with over 100 close friends and the brotherhood that they all experienced. David emphasizes that the chapter truly enhanced his college experience. As an alumnus, being on the AVC has helped him reconnect with brothers who simply inquire about the chapter and show genuine interest in its future.

"We have to have volunteers," David says. "If not, the undergraduates can head into a direction that is not favorable. We need to have alumni involvement to stay on track." Some advice that he gives the Indiana Alpha members is to attend class, get internships, and enjoy everything you can about college. He emphasizes that there are many learning opportunities outside of the classroom.

"It's easy for people to sit and watch from the sidelines, but the undergraduates need mentors," David says. "There's always something to do. We have volunteers that work endlessly, and stepping up to serve on the AVC or work on projects/committees at the chapter is needed and appreciated."

David currently lives Lafayette, Ind., and is the vice president of community engagement for Old National Bank. When he has some free time, he enjoys home renovation projects, volunteering in the community, working as the front of house manager at Elliott Hall of Music for events and concerts, and serving as the chairman of the American Advertising Federation District 6 board. He also loves spending time with family and friends and traveling. E-mail: david.huhnke@gmail.com

THANK YOU, BROTHERS, FOR IMPACTING THE FUTURE OF INDIANA ALPHA

Thanks to the support of 65 generous alumni, \$16,145 was contributed through our spring 2015 appeal. The accomplishments and success enjoyed by Indiana Alpha are directly attributed to the ongoing and loyal support from the chapter's alumni relations efforts. Your gifts help the men of Indiana Alpha not only today but well into the future! If an error has been made in recording the amount of your gift, we sincerely apologize. If corrections to your giving records are needed, please send them to alehr@penningtonco.com. Thank you, again, for your loyal support.

Founder's Society (\$5,000 and above)

James G. Mosch '79

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

John C. Weydert '48
Andrew G. Forrest '52
Frank E. Ruehling '56
Robert F. Kroeger '58
David E. Hetrick '89
Mark S. Meyer '92
Matthew R. Foster '94
James M. Anderson '95

Brotherhood Society (\$500 to \$999)

Robert A. Von Behren '43
Harold Shevers Jr. '57
David S. McMichael '59
Frank R. Snyder '58
Bill M. Reid '60
James H. Muehlbauer '63
Byron H. White '64
John L. Knochel '65
John R. Treat '66
John K. Oelslager '66

Ronald L. Downing '68
August G. Voelkel '68
Wendell D. Schultz '68
James S. Keller '69
James M. Cassell '73
James M. Lindsey,
DDS '74
Fred H. Beckman '82
Bradley S. Vice '85
Eric D. Dodd '91

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

Donald F. Smith '48
Edward R. Hyde '49
John C. Adams '54
Robert C. Foster '54
William V. Dohr '59
Robert T. Thorson '61
Larry R. Horton '62
Lawrence K. Volland '63
Kenneth A. Campbell '64
Andrew R. Ceperley '65
Gilbert J. Frey '66
Kenneth G. Miller '66
Michael R. Perkins '66
E. Dana Smith '66

Gary L. Evans '67
Patrick J. Woodring '69
Louis B. Astbury '72
Gregory B. Foust '72
Charles R. Reeves '73
Edward G. Gehlhausen '74
Dennis C. Lange '74
Mark W. Haberstroh '75
Jerrold L. Ulrey '75
Craig W. Wallace '75
David M. Andrews '78
Christopher D. Kelly '80
Richard C. Schroeder '82
Mark E. Sullivan '87
Douglas P. Reinking '91
Brian J. Kiessling '98
Grant R. Lohse '02
Dustin R. Longest '04
John M. Neary '05
Robert R. Vrabell '06

Donor Society (Up to \$99)

Gerhard N. Bolen '65
Mark D. Schmitz '69
Wesley E. Shimanek '79

HELP SIGEP BROTHERS TODAY *Indiana Alpha Needs You!*

We are always looking for ways to improve the interaction between our undergraduates and alumni. The alumni of Indiana Alpha have a collective knowledge and experience that is mostly an untapped resource for our young undergraduates. We are working on a few ideas to help bridge this divide and provide value for both the undergraduates and the alumni. Our two big focuses are mentoring and a type of job board.

Mentoring

A large part of the Balanced Man Program is mentoring. Indiana Alpha has always had a strong Alumni Volunteer group, and now we are now looking for some of those volunteers to help with mentoring these young men. We have a very young house and we need you to share your experience in life and work with the men of Indiana Alpha. The Balanced Man Program is divided into the Sigma, Phi, Epsilon, and Brother Mentor stages. As part of the Brother Mentor stage, the undergraduates are required to have a mentor



SIGMA PHI EPSILON BROTHERS GAIN KNOWLEDGE, VALUES

Our Indiana Alpha Chapter has been in a difficult situation for the last two years, but now I can confidently say that the worst is behind us. The brothers within the house have used and fully committed to our principles of virtue, diligence, and brotherly love to get us out of that situation.

34 NEW MEMBERS

Recruitment this semester has gone outstandingly well. We have made huge steps to increase the prestige of our new members. With the new fully functional implementation of the Balanced Man Scholarship in place, we were able to reach out to the top tier of Purdue's freshman 2016 fall class. As formal rush concluded this semester, we recruited a total of 34 new members. Currently, there are 16 brothers living in the house, which is four times what we had last year. We expect next year to be up to around 45 people living in the house and getting back to a more normal state.

THANK YOU, ALUMNI

Throughout the summer, many dedicated alumni came back to 690 Waldron and donated time and money to ensure that the house is in a livable and comfortable condition. Some alumni say that the current condition of the house is the nicest it has been in a very long time. **A huge thank you to our loyal alumni who have contributed in any way possible to help us out of a sticky situation!** We strive to continue the legacy at Indiana Alpha and continue to produce excellent balanced men.

Fraternally,

Nick Burgess '17

President

president@purdue-sigeps.com



Former head basketball coach at Purdue and fellow SigEp Gene Keady stopped by 690 Waldron for a meet and greet. It was a great day of autographs, photos, and stories.



Renovation outside of the Indiana Alpha Chapter house.



Gene Keady and Nick Burgess '17.

outside of the house. This is preferably someone in their field of study that they can ask questions to and receive guidance from when needed. All communication can be done over the phone, e-mail, Skype, or in person, so distance is not an issue.

Job Board

We all know that networking is very important in businesses and life. Sigma Phi Epsilon and Indiana Alpha give us a big head start and advantage in that area. I know I have personally benefited from the relationships I developed while at the house, as well as with other alumni I have met since graduation. We want to make it easier for alumni and undergraduates to connect for jobs and internships. This idea is not fully developed yet, but we will compile a list of all undergraduates with majors and expected graduation year on the website. This way our alumni can see who they can potentially help



Alumni came back to the house to speak to the brothers and potential brothers. The alumni shared some of their experiences at the house, what SigEp has meant to them, and how it has impacted their lives.

get a job or internship. Conversely, we would like to do the same with a list of alumni. We want to list the alumni names, company, position, and city they live in. This way, undergraduates can look at the list and see who they should contact for possible jobs, internships, or career advice. This will also help other alumni connect to help each other out. We have started a basic list at www.purdue-sigeps.com/alumni/networking.

If you are willing to mentor a brother in the house or want to get involved, please contact me.

Fraternally,

Jay Bilunas '99

Alumni Relations

avc-alumnirelations@purdue-sigeps.com

Alumni Update

William Redlich '42 took the Honor Flight Chicago on June 3. He lives in Evanston, Ill. E-mail: bredlich@touchtown.org

John Weydert '48 did the mechanical and structural design of Sandia Labs Hypersonic Wind Tunnel facility over 50 years ago. He had the pleasure of visiting that facility in 2014. It was gratifying for him to witness that it is working and still used after all these years. He and his wife, Anne, live in Albuquerque, N.M.

Edward Hyde '49 retired in 1998 after a career as an intellectual property law attorney. He is currently doing some pro bono work for local non-profit organizations and enjoying retirement. He loves traveling, reading, and bird watching. He and his wife, Dorothy, live in Wilton, Conn. E-mail: ehde@att.net

Gordon Thomson '51 has spent his 89 years singing in numerous choirs, symphonies, and churches. He was inspired by his days at SigEp and the Purdue Glee Club. He remembers the fraternity chorus was led by Buzz Hagan. "Ah, yes, fond memories." He and his wife, Patricia, live in Gales Ferry, Calif.

David Naugle '61 is still going strong after 54 years in the packaging business. He only works when he's needed at DDN Industries Inc., the company he's owned for 29 years. He has six grandkids and another one on the way. He spends winters in Arizona and the remainder of the time in Illinois and Wisconsin. E-mail: ddnaugle@aol.com

Gary Bolen '65 retired in March from PPG Industries. He moved to Florida and now spends a lot of time boating and fishing. He also still plays his trombone. E-mail: bolen.gary@yahoo.com

Thomas Bryan '66 has been practicing law as a litigator for 45 years. He is in the American College of Trial Lawyers, and focuses his practice in defending medical malpractice cases. Though he is semi-retired, he hasn't been able to completely walk away. He has been married to Karen for almost 40 years and they live in Evansville, Ind. E-mail: tbryan6080@gmail.com

Elmer Nuss '69 is retired and living in Athens, Ala. He and his wife, Peggy, have eight grandchildren. They travel and babysit a great deal. They are four miles east of I-65. "Give us a call if you are in Tennessee or Alabama." E-mail: nussa@bellsouth.net

Larry Morelock '71 is currently the vice chairman of Castle Air Museum Inc.'s board of directors and the commissioner of Merced County California Airport Land Use Commission. He and his wife, Susan, live in Merced, California. E-mail: kctoat@sbcbglobal.net

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Sigma Phi Epsilon-Indiana Alpha

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WELCOME, FALL 2015 NEW MEMBERS

Landon Altling
Greenwood, Ind.

Dillon Bergman
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Brad Boane
Houston, Texas

Jacob Bradley
Mishawaka, Ind.

Troy Bradley
Mishawaka, Ind.

Logan Burke
Lafayette, Ind.

Sam Cleveland
Floyds Knobs, Ind.

Spencer Davidson
Lafayette, Ind.

Ross DeRiter
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Evan Dorval
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Luke Dupree
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Dandridge, Tenn.

Mark Guza
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Damian Hamielec
Naperville, Ill.

Riley Johnson
Sweetser, Ind.

Joe Knue
Zionsville, Ind.

Gabe Lebow
Smithtown, N.Y.

Nick Lucasti
Atlantic City, N.J.

James Myers
Pleasantville, N.Y.

Austin Nelson
Hammond, Ind.

Juan Nunez
Miami, Fla.

Daniel Petro
Columbus, Ind.

Griffin Pfaff
Terre Haute, Ind.

Garrett Pferrer
Carmel, Ind.

Scott Sacha
Mishawaka, Ind.

Corey Schmitt
Chandler, Ind.

Ryan Schroder
Windsor, Conn.

Sam Seacat
Indianapolis, Ind.

Andrew Snyder
Basking Ridge, N.J.

John Turner
Milwaukee, Wis.

Chris Wolak
Indianapolis, Ind.

Philip Pescarino '95 and his wife, Monica, are due to have baby number two in December. They live in Birmingham, Mich. E-mail: smodog1@gmail.com

Nijaul Drollinger '99 and his family have become avid campers and spend 30+ nights

a year in the camper. "Although some call it 'glamping,' our kids love it." In August, he began his eighth year as principal at Sweetser Elementary, which has continually been an A-rated school. He lives in Converse, Ind., with his wife, Christina, and their three children. E-mail: nijaul@hotmail.com