

# FROM THE HEART

A PUBLICATION FOR ALUMNI OF INDIANA ALPHA ♦ SIGMA PHI EPSILON ♦ FALL 2016

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## INDIANA ALPHA FORMALLY PLACED ON SUSPENSION

*AVC Working Hard to Bring SigEp Back by 2020*

On behalf of the Alumni Volunteer Corporation board, I would like to thank you for your continued patience and understanding as we work through the necessary steps to finalize the lease of our physical property (which should be completed by the time you receive this) and shift toward a successful return to campus when our suspension period ends. To date, the board has tried to do its best to communicate news and status of recent occurrences to alumni via social media, word of mouth, direct e-mails, and live conversation. I understand that there are still alumni who are unaware of what has happened; and therefore, I hope that the summarization in my letter here will help to further bridge that gap.

In March, after 111 years of continuous operation, our chapter was formally placed on suspension for the next four years. We are eligible to return in the fall of 2020. This decision from Purdue comes after much discussion and collaboration with the university and national fraternity; however, the reality is that times have changed and tolerance for misbehavior is much lower than in years past.

### The circumstances that led to the suspension were:

- An unregistered party was hosted on December 10, 2015, with 100-plus (active and inactive members, minors, and guests) while on social probation.
- Hazing, which included trading favors for active/inactive member information, yelling, and requesting that new members perform skits at the unregistered function.
- An elaborate cover-up of the activities on December 10, 2015, inclusive of formally submitting a false narrative to the university, in addition to failing to take advantage of numerous opportunities to share the facts with Indiana Alpha alumni.

The Purdue Community Standards Board recommendation from the March 3 hearing was “full and permanent revocation of recognition with no right of return as a campus organization.” Through coordination and partnership with the university and national fraternity, that punishment was lessened to a period of up to a four-year suspension.

Though our chapter has accomplished and celebrated recent successes in some areas of chapter operations and recruitment, as well as significant improvement in chapter facility conditions, we can no longer underestimate the strong inclination for our younger members to follow the lead of those who have come before them, nor the lengths to which our current membership went to cover up the unregistered function, alcohol, and hazing infractions.

Sometimes, in order to truly move forward, you have to reflect and accept ownership of the mistakes of the past. Although many of the undergraduates living in the house were not there two years ago, as an organization, we are still responsible for our previous mistakes and must abide by the punishments handed out. As I have mentioned in previous communications, the university and society as a whole show much less tolerance for the type of behavior that years ago as the norm was at least

much more acceptable. With the latest violations of alcohol and hazing policies and probation terms from two years ago, it is tough for anyone to see beyond our continued lack of adherence to Interfraternity Council and university policies. Though it is unlikely that all will agree with the length of the punishment, I hope that we all can accept that the university, our national fraternity, and the Alumni Volunteer Corporation board were left with few alternatives to confidently remediate.

In the short term, the focus of the Alumni Volunteer Corporation will be to serve and partner with Kappa Delta sorority, who will be leasing our property for the next three-plus years, hold accountable all members involved in the events leading up to our suspension, work to fix the alumni communication gaps that have become evident, and continue our partnership with our national fraternity to understand what we need to do to ready ourselves for a return to campus.

In the coming weeks, months, and years, the board will be making requests for your support in the form of volunteerism and/or finances. This will help staff and fund events, fill alumni positions necessary to rebuild alumni relations, and effectively mentor and guide future undergraduate brothers. If you feel so called when the request comes, I ask that you stand up to be counted and pay forward from what your experiences at 690 Waldron have given to you.



Fraternally,  
**Brian Rodell '99**  
AVC President

[avc-president@purdue-sigeps.com](mailto:avc-president@purdue-sigeps.com)

## Mike Pacilio '82 Credits Indiana Alpha for Personal, Professional Development

*Alumnus Thankful for Sigma Phi Epsilon*

Leaving the small town of North Judson, Indiana, for a large university proved to be slightly daunting for **Mike Pacilio '82**. His family farm prepared him well for the hard work that was ahead of him at Purdue, but it was intimidating when he realized his high school graduating class was about a fourth of the size of his calculus class.

Indiana Alpha changed everything about his college experience. “SigEp was a family to me—100-plus brothers to play with, study with, and share the experiences that Purdue



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## Mike Pacilio '82 Credits Indiana Alpha for Personal, Professional Development

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had to offer," Mike says. "It made Purdue feel much smaller." He enjoyed daily dinners, socials, Boiler football games, and living in the chapter house. The fraternity provided a relief from the grind electrical engineering put on him.

Being around a large group of diverse men helped Mike grow personally and professionally. He was fortunate to be exposed to many new opportunities at Purdue. "Living in the SigEp house opened my eyes to the diversity life has to offer," Mike says. "It helped to prepare me to know what working in a Fortune 500 company would bring."

No matter where life takes him, he will always fondly reminisce on his days at Purdue. "To all my past friends and brothers who helped me prepare for what was in store, I thank you," Mike says. "I would love to share a glass of Bordeaux with my brothers and fondly reminisce of our days at old Purdue."

Mike has enjoyed working for the same company for over 34 years. He is the executive vice president and chief operating office for Exelon's Generation Company. In his spare time, he enjoys traveling with family, golfing, and spending time at the gym. He and his wife, Cheryl, live in Geneva, Illinois. They have four children: Katie, Amy, Marie, and Brian. E-mail: [mike.pacilio60@gmail.com](mailto:mike.pacilio60@gmail.com)

## THANK YOU, BROTHERS, FOR SUPPORTING INDIANA ALPHA

Thanks to the support of 29 generous alumni, \$7,115 was contributed last fall through this spring. We will be using these funds as well as any continued donations to staff and fund events and publications necessary to rebuild alumni relations. Your continued support helps ensure the future of Indiana Alpha. 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](mailto:alehr@penningtonco.com). Thank you, again, for your loyal support.

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

John C. Weydert '48  
Rodney J. Henderson '68  
Jason H. Williams '11

### Brotherhood Society (\$500 to \$999)

Craig W. Wallace '75  
Michael L. Davis '77  
Chris G. Wallace '77

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

Donald F. Smith '48  
Lee E. Gase '50  
Frank E. Ruehling '56  
Roger G. Blocks '62  
Robert H. Sheridan '62  
Kurt F. Meier '63  
E. Dana Smith '66

Wendell D. Schultz '68  
Richard J. Vukmanovich '69  
James R. Brown '73  
Douglas M. Nabhan '77  
George F. Plesac '79  
Kerry A. Prielipp '79  
Steven E. Wilson '79  
David J. St. Claire '86  
John C. Vas '94  
Jacob G. Plesac '12

### Others (Up to \$99)

Raymond S. Stephens '49  
Richard F. Trowbridge '59  
Frederick W. Forward '65  
Kenneth G. Miller '66  
Gregory B. Foust '72  
Art M. Weisman '82

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Sigma Phi Epsilon Indiana Alpha



Sigma Phi Epsilon-Indiana Alpha  
(Purdue University)

## ALUMNI UPDATE

### CHAPTER ETERNAL

**Frederick L. Schindler '51** entered Chapter Eternal on June 22, 2015. He was a resident of West Chester, Ohio.

**Richard E. Hildebrand '52** entered Chapter Eternal on March 6, 2015. He was a resident of Mount Juliet, Tenn.

### ALUMNI NEWS

**Donald F. Smith '48** has been retired for

about 22 years, but is still as active as ever with his church and Lion's Club. His son, Brad, started the Souper Bowl of Caring about 20 years ago. Since that time, he has raised nearly \$106 million. The charity's vision is to "Transform the time around the Super Bowl into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving." You can learn more about it at [souperbowl.org](http://souperbowl.org). Don is a resident of Atlanta, Ga.





## SIXTH ANNUAL GOOD TIMES TAILGATE

### Indiana Alpha Alumni Gather at 100th Year of the Indianapolis 500

As most of you know, 2016 was the 100th running of the Indianapolis 500 race. That also means the annual Good Times Tailgate. For the sixth consecutive year, **Jarod Overton '00** and I hosted the annual tailgate at the American Legion Post 500 directly across from the track. The tailgate has grown every year, as we added a third RV spot for 2016. We placed the RVs in a U shape, allowing for a large open area in the middle where we talked about old times and planned for the future of our chapter. We also laughed quite a bit sharing stories from 690 Waldron as if we never left! Our tailgate wasn't complete without local breweries donating craft beer and restaurants donating amazing food. Next year we are expanding our catered meals as Lincoln Square Pancake House will be providing an early Sunday breakfast—thanks **Chris Katris '00**!

This year was also special due to the return of Major **Jarod Overton '00** from his third tour in the Middle East. He and his Marines were with the Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. We are happy to have him home!

Each year we have more and more alumni swing by the tailgate. At one point, **Miles Wagoner '01** stated, "We have been friends for 20 years!"

It is hard to believe that we have been out of school for that long, but when we all get together, it's like we haven't skipped a beat. Things have changed in all of our lives, but the bond we built as brothers in Indiana Alpha will always remain the same.

Four teams from our tailgate participated in the annual Coke Lot Fowling Tournament. This is a great event that crosses football with bowling. Each year, there are more than 100 teams signed up to play the spirited game. The SigEp team of **Russ Wolpert '00** and I made it to the Sweet 16, but were sadly eliminated. We were excited to see a large number of SigEp brothers that stopped by on Sunday before the race. We enjoyed our time together eating, laughing, and sharing stories before heading over to the track. We will be hosting the tailgate again next year and welcome all Indiana Alpha members to join us.

Fraternally,

**Jay Bilunas '99**

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## Sigma Phi Epsilon-Indiana Alpha

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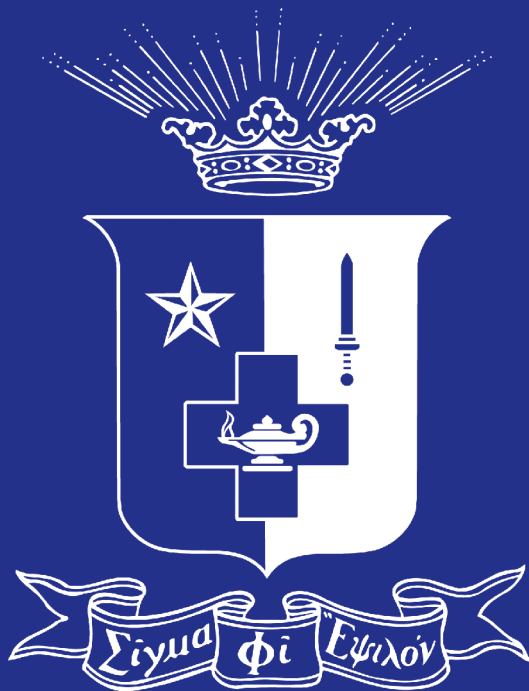
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Alumni,  
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to YOU

*See Inside for  
Important Update on  
Our Chapter*

# SAVE THE DATE



**HOMECOMING**  
Saturday, October 15  
vs. Iowa at 12 p.m.