

FROM THE HEART

A PUBLICATION FOR ALUMNI OF INDIANA ALPHA ♦ SIGMA PHI EPSILON ♦ FALL 2017

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AVC WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS 2018 GOALS ESTABLISHED

I would first like to extend my congratulations and thanks to the newly elected Alumni Volunteer Committee board members: **Brian Todd '97**, **Mike Ellis '84**, **Mitch Salyers '93**, **Daryl Martz '76**, **Mike Davis '77**, **Norm Nabhan '71**, **Scott Swisher '79** and **Jim Mosch '79**!

In addition to myself, these gentlemen were nominated and unanimously approved at the annual Homecoming meeting to serve as your newly formed nine-member alumni board. I would like to give a special welcome to Brother Mosch; he is new to the board this year and we are excited about the skills and experience that he will bring to an already talented team!

Your board is very much aware of the general disappointment, as well as confusion, that still exists among some of our alumni as it relates to

our suspension status and the events that led to that outcome. As your president, I will commit to continually looking for key learnings and pushing the board as a whole to strive to bring the chapter back stronger than ever. To that end, I submit to you the three primary areas of focus in 2018:

- “Fundraising” – Brother Salyers will lead a committee focused on improving our strategy and methods for connecting and communicating with our alumni base.
- “Fundraising” – Brothers Nabhan and Ellis will lead a committee charged with developing the plan to raise funds for physical facility upgrades and chapter programming sustainment to support the chapter well into the future.

- Facilities Upgrade – Brother Swisher will lead a committee tasked with vetting options for updating our 100-plus-year-old facility.

Though we are confident these are the right areas of focus, we will be asking our alumni for support to ensure success in accomplishing what is required to relaunch in 2020. Please see information on the following pages for ways to get involved. Support large and small is welcome and always appreciated.



Fraternally,
Brian Rodell '98
AVC President
avc-president@purdue-sigeps.com

Homecoming Dinner Brings Brothers Together



Indiana Alpha alumni gathered for Homecoming this year for the inaugural Homecoming Dinner hosted by the AVC. This was our first successful event since the closure of the chapter and helps launch us into the future, as well as aligns with the mission of the AVC to connect with alumni through multiple platforms, distribute relevant information to all members, and provide activities for alumni to connect with the overall brotherhood.



Members enjoyed gathering and discussing memories of times at 690 Waldron. The conversation was rich with recounts of brother antics and lifelong friendships. **David Huhnke '83** served as the emcee for the evening while **Mike Ellis '84** offered the blessing for the meal. Look for more information on dinners in the future both for Homecoming and in cities where brothers congregate.



Brothers and members of the AVC gathered for a Homecoming Dinner September 23 in the Anniversary Drawing Room at the Purdue Memorial Union.



KAPPA DELTA COMPLETES RENOVATIONS TO MAINTAIN INDIANA ALPHA CHAPTER HOUSE

Kappa Delta has gone to great lengths to update the rooms and common areas within the SigEp fraternity house. This summer, they completed clean-up and renovations of all rooms on the first and second floors that were not completed the previous year. With new furnishings throughout and window air-conditioners in all rooms, the house was in impeccable condition for the 54 women who planned to call 690 their home this fall. It should be noted that Kappa Delta not only made their quota for this year during rush, but they are thriving on campus. Sigma Phi Epsilon has contributed to this success through the lease of our chapter house. With Kappa Delta's lease contributions, SigEp is becoming more financially viable, and the chapter house is being maintained to the highest of standards.



Newly installed shower partitions on first floor.



Cathi Parish, Kappa Delta's alumni board president, discusses renovations Kappa Delta has made to the SigEp house at 690 Waldron.



The first and second floor bedrooms and common spaces received some TLC.

Alumni Mentors Needed

Brothers, as the AVC prepares for the relaunch of Sigma Phi Epsilon, Indiana Alpha, we are looking for alumni interested in volunteering their time to mentor undergraduates and guide them in their lifelong journey as a SigEp—a requirement for a successful chapter.

At this point, we are simply gathering a list of interested members we can call on as 2020 approaches. Please send correspondence to avc-avlumirelations@purdue-sigeps.com. A member of the AVC will be in contact and offer more information on the ways you can assist new members as we relaunch.



CHAPTER ETERNAL

Dr. Kevin E. Morkel '75, age 65, of Columbus and Mansfield, Ohio, passed away on June 10. He is preceded in death by his father, Gordon F. Morkel, M.D., and is survived by his mother, Rachel W. Morkel. He will be deeply missed by his loving wife of 17 years, Maria Morkel; stepsons, Juan and Jose Castillo; granddaughter, Celeste Castillo; siblings, Karen DeMoss, Karla Roth, and Keith G. Morkel; and all his loving nieces, nephews, cousins, and his dog.



Class of 1966 Celebrates 50 Years

On October 7, the class of 1966 held its 50th reunion—a year late, yes, but worth the wait. Reunion coordinator **Dana Smith '66** says, “**Ken Miller '66** (a retired USAF general) and I had talked about doing something in June 2016, but it was too late to block rooms at a local hotel, so we postponed it till 2017. After a couple of conversations, the General said, ‘Smith, you live there, you’re in charge!’”

Dana says the most difficult part of planning was simply getting email addresses for everyone. “Once people graduated, married, started new jobs, etc., contact became limited.” However, the national fraternity was of some help, as well as brothers who have kept in touch with each other. “I concentrated on the classes of 1965-1967 and ended up with about 55 good addresses. I was able to get 29 brothers and 20 spouses in attendance.”

Several groups gathered for dinners around town on Friday night, October 6, then all met up for a tailgate party on Saturday at the home of Bea and **Kendall Smith '68** and co-hosted by Stephanie and **Charlie Deible '68**.

After an hour-and-a-half weather delay during the game, Purdue beat Minnesota 31-17, and the brothers met at the Four Points by Marriott Hotel for dinner, chapter updates, and reminiscing. **Mitch Salyers '93** was invited and spoke about the state of the chapter and plans to recolonize. Alumni were appreciative to learn of the plans and understand ways they may help for the rebuilding of the chapter.

Dana says, “There was a lot of renewing bonds, remembrances of happenings in the house, and ‘lie’-swapping!” A highlight of the evening was Ken Miller and **Fred Lash '66** showing up with their senior cords.

While planning a milestone reunion is a lot of work, Dana was quite happy with the turnout and is thankful for the brotherhood that lasts long after college days are over.

Dana is retired and lives with his wife, Maggie, in West Lafayette. He can be reached at danasmith1501@yahoo.com.



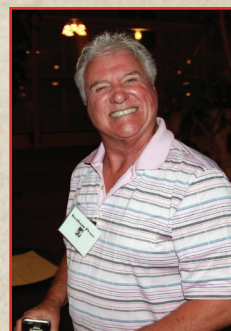
*The tall ones, **Christ Hartung '68**, **Ken Miller '66**, and **Kendall Smith '68**, wanted to be in front; therefore they had to sit on the stairs.*



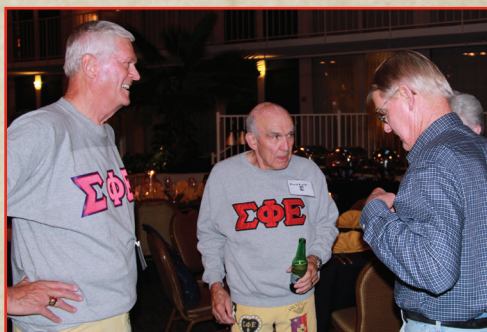
***Fred Lash '66**, one-time house music director, leads the brothers in “Sam, Sam, the SigEp Man.”*



Alumni and their spouses celebrated 50 years at the reunion dinner.



*Left: **Graham Pesce '69**. Right: **Mitch Salyers '93** addressed the group and answered questions on the plan for the return of the chapter.*



***Ken Miller '66** and **Fred Lash '66** wore their senior cords.*



ATTENDEES:

Tom Bryan '66
Larry Champion '73
Jeff Conopask '69
Roger Day '69
Charlie Deible '68
Steve Derrick '66
Ron Downing '68
Gary Evans '67

Norm Fuchs '70
Mike Gilbert '68
Mike Hammer '68
Chris Hartung '68
Ted Hazledine '65
Ben Hunter '68
John Hunter '65
Fred Lash '66

Dan Matis '65
Ken Miller '66
John Oelslager '66
Dick Peacock '66
Mike Perkins '66
Graham Pesce '69
Greg Rinehart '68
Dennis Schultz '68

Dana Smith '66
Kendall Smith '68
John Treat '66
Gene Voelkel '68
Ken Wolff '66

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BROTHERHOOD IS FOR A LIFETIME

FIND YOUR WAY TO STAY CONNECTED

Do you have new preferred contact information? A life update to share? Are you interested in reconnecting with a brother or whole class? Planning a reunion? We are here to help. Please send any updates or inquiries to **Mitch Salyers '93** at avc-alumnirelations@purdue-sigeps.com.



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