

# FROM THE HEART

A PUBLICATION FOR ALUMNI OF INDIANA ALPHA ♦ SIGMA PHI EPSILON ♦ FALL 2021

PURDUESIGEP.ORG



## SIGEP PREPARES FOR AN EXCITING YEAR

### Recruitment, Renovations, and Fundraising Continue Strong

After one year, I am pleased to report progress on all fronts toward reestablishing our beloved fraternity at Purdue.

I have shared before that this effort to reinstate our chapter consists of many moving parts. The timelines are complex and interwoven with dependencies abound between recruitment, facilities design, construction, finances, fundraising, and volunteers. Our latest, and we believe final, timeline has us cutting the ribbon on a renewed 690 Waldron in fall 2024, filling it with our own, newest SigEp brothers.

In these pages, you will hear more from my colleagues on the amazing progress they are making in each of these respective areas. Recruitment, which struggled to take off for several semesters, seems to be getting the wind in its sails.

The facilities team is deeply involved in detailed discussions with our general contracting firm, preparing to ask the architect for detailed drawings. They are looking for every opportunity to make the project more cost efficient and deliver the very best housing and community facility on campus.

The fundraising team is adding to their totals board by growing both the number of donors and the volume of gifts accumulated for our goals. You can look forward to naming opportunities in the renovated house and challenge gifts that, we hope, will inspire a broader group of donors.

At the heart of these accomplishments is a dedicated team of volunteers. Their dedication and hard work are something you all can be proud of—I know I am.

As for the board members, Director **Daryl Martz '76** is stepping down—but still helping—to make room for **Jim Quinn '83**. The rest of your board reupped for another year of service. We are grateful to all of them.

Fraternally,  
**Mike Ellis '84**  
AVC President



*The SigEp house has come a long way! Here's a photo from 1914.*

## WELCOMING SIGEP HOME BY FALL 2024

### Construction Plans Are Instated for 690 Waldron

While the onset of COVID-19 certainly changed the schedule for the renovation committee, it has afforded us the blessing to recruit more brothers, increase our fundraising, and shore up our construction planning. As you may be aware, Kappa Delta Sorority has been leasing 690 Waldron for the last several years and had planned to start construction on their own new house when the pandemic also caused a delay in their plans. This delay enabled us to negotiate a one-year lease extension on favorable terms to the SigEps and has provided Sigma Phi Epsilon a huge benefit. The extra year of rent not only gave us one extra year of income, but also more time to complete our many remaining tasks. The sorority will vacate the house in May of 2023, and construction will be completed in time for the 2024 fall semester.

At this point, we have commissioned a local architect, Scholer Associates, who has prepared preliminary drawings of our new home. The fraternity features sleeping rooms for 41 brothers and one full-time house director. Every wall in our sleeping areas will be demolished and rebuilt from the studs out. One of the most exciting features will be a classroom on the lower level, which can provide for actual Purdue classes as well as chapter and campus organization meetings. The modernization will also feature a four-story elevator, new windows, fire sprinklers, air conditioning, and an electronic security and access control system.

*(Continued on page 3)*

# THE CAMPAIGN FOR INDIANA ALPHA — *A New Beginning*

## Capital Campaign Nearing \$1.75M Goal Thanks to Alumni

**T**hank you to the following supporters who have contributed to *The Campaign for Indiana Alpha—A New Beginning*. All donors giving \$1,000 or more will be recognized in campaign publications. All donors making gifts of \$2,500 or more to this campaign will be recognized on a permanently displayed plaque in the renovated chapter house. If an error has been made in recording your gift, or your name has been mistakenly omitted or listed improperly, we sincerely apologize. Please advise our campaign coordinator at [alehr@penningtonco.com](mailto:alehr@penningtonco.com). Thank you!

### **Indiana Alpha Circle** **(\$100,000 and above)**

Bequest from John R. Grayson '46  
Hal Shevers '57  
Norman E. Nabhan '71  
James G. Mosch '80  
Doug Bowen '93

### **690 Waldron Society** **(\$50,000 to \$99,999)**

Anonymous  
Nick D. Harris '79  
Michael G. Ellis '84  
Mark A. Napier '92

### **1905 League** **(\$25,000 to \$49,999)**

Carl R. Willis '61  
James H. Muehlbauer '63  
Edward T. Hazledine '65  
Walter L. Brant '71  
John S. Andrews '79  
Scott R. Swisher '79  
William J. Wallace '79  
Dwight Denham '82  
Michael A. Seldowitz '86

### **Phoenix Guild** **(\$10,000 to \$24,999)**

Roger G. Blocks '62  
E. Dana Smith '66  
Kenneth K. Wolff '68  
John L. Fox '71  
David T. Strother '71  
In memory of  
Rick Ekstrom '72,  
Jim Suchomel '72,  
Doug Molls '73, and  
Ted Tedesco '73  
Patrick Gantert '72  
David M. Andrews '79  
George B. White '79  
Ross A. Richards '80  
Fred H. Beckman '82  
Gregory M. Hague '82  
John P. Neary '82  
James P. Quinn '83  
David E. Duba '84  
Edward W. Heathorn '87  
Brian R. Rodell '98

### **Red Door Club** **(\$5,000 to \$9,999)**

Renee Atkinson  
In memory of  
Jeff Atkinson '63  
Ruth C. Skillman  
In memory of  
Jack V. Skillman '48  
John F. Derr '58  
Donald M. Mitchell '58  
Sanford v. H. Olson '59  
Gerald L. Young '59  
Richard R. Mitchell '60  
Gregor D. Edwards '66  
John K. Oelslager '66  
Richard A. Peacock '66  
John R. Treat '66  
In memory of  
Craig A. Beam '66 and  
John D. Popovich '66  
Gary L. Evans '67  
Jeffrey V. Conopask '69  
James S. Keller '69  
James H. Ham III '72  
Edward G. Gehlhausen '74  
Thomas E. Everly '75  
In memory of  
G & O  
Daryl R. Martz '76  
Gary L. Kotterman '78  
Lloyd "Mac" McGlincy '78  
David R. Ehler '79  
James M. Keefe '79  
George F. Plesac '79  
Christopher D. Kelly '80  
Kevin J. Spurlock '80  
In honor of the  
Fall '76 Pledge Class  
Gregory A. Hartman '81  
In memory of  
Steve Grate '80,  
Bret Harrison '80, and  
Bill Mullins '81  
Scott M. McCain '82  
Richard C. Schroeder '82  
Glade T. Montgomery '83  
Martin P. Weissburg '84  
Tim Dickson '86  
Beau Graham '88  
Robert E. Pritchard '89  
David E. Hetrick '90

Mark S. Meyer '93  
Keith A. Rintamaa '93  
John A. Rittenhouse '93  
James M. Anderson '95  
Matthew D. Bennett '00  
Benjamin R. Miller '01  
Jacob G. Plesac '12

### **Founders Club** **(\$2,500 to \$4,999)**

John C. Miller '58  
Lawrence K. Volland '63  
G. Scott Dixon '64  
Steven D. Derrick '66  
Fred C. Lash '66  
Gregory L. Rinehart '68  
Wendell D. Schultz '68  
David A. Sappenfield '69  
John R. Fields '72  
In memory of  
Carl A. Carr '72  
Herbert K. Streich '73  
Kevin R. Smith '77  
Mark R. Easley '78  
Steven E. Wilson '78  
Steve Morgan '81  
Michael L. Sheward '81  
In memory of  
Steve Grate '80,  
Bret Harrison '80, and  
Bill Mullins '81  
William D. Farrar '82  
In memory of  
Clayton "Bud" Farrar '54  
David J. St. Claire '85  
David S. Griffith '88  
In memory of  
Lt. Col Richard F. Brereton '89  
Shane K. Platt '90  
Eric D. Dodd '91  
Grant R. Lohse '02  
Wade H. Miller '02  
Andrew M. Dec '05

### **Brotherhood Club** **(\$1,000 to \$2,499)**

Nonnie Owens,  
House Mom 1992-2001  
Bradford Taylor  
In memory of  
David G. Guinnup '75

## Campaign Status At-a-Glance

*As of November 23, 2021*

**Campaign Goal**  
**\$1.75 Million**

**Total Commitments**  
**\$1,691,288**

**Total Contributors**  
**172**

William R. Redlich '42  
Theodore J. Lanham '49  
Raymond G. Keller '57  
William V. Dohr '59  
David S. McMichael '59  
Richard F. Trowbridge '59  
Robert F. Kroeger '60  
Robert T. Thorson '61  
Kenneth A. Campbell '64  
Robert L. Flint '64  
David D. Schoeff '64  
Byron H. White '64  
Andrew R. Ceperley '65  
Michael A. Burdick '67  
Richard T. Friestadt '67  
Logan F. Wernz '67  
Steve R. Simmons '68  
August G. Voelkel '68  
Louis B. Astbury '72  
Donovan A. Langford III '72  
Keith D. Baker '75  
Dale J. Giolas '75  
Jerrold L. Ulrey '75  
Anthony P. Bowman '78  
Kerry A. Prielipp '79  
Albert P. D'Andrea '81  
Barry L. Olson '82  
J.D. Landgrebe '84  
Peter N. Peregrine '84  
In memory of  
Christopher R. Peregrine '82  
James D. Farley '86  
Scott L. Doelling '87  
Gregory E. Schiffl '91  
Douglas M. Melton '97  
Patrick K. Crawford '03  
Paul J. Feldmann '07





## WELCOMING SIGEP HOME BY FALL 2024

(Continued from page 1)

Serving as our general contractor are **Tim Lawson '77** and **Terry Larson '80**, owners of Larson Danielson Construction of LaPorte, Indiana. They have generously donated their profits from the project. You can read more about them below!

The project will cost approximately \$4.5 million and will be financed through our capital campaign and a mortgage. The campaign is on target, yet it needs more help. The costs have been carefully studied and will allow

us sufficient cash flow to ensure long-term financial stability.

The rebuilt Sigma Phi Epsilon house will be the finest space on campus—and deservedly so. Thank you to everyone's contribution not only of financial resources, but also of the resource we may never get back: your time.

Fraternally,  
**David Andrews '79**  
Renovation Committee



*The SigEp living room from 1914.*

## BUILDING A CHAPTER HOUSE FOR BALANCED MEN

*Tim Larson '77 and Terry Larson '80 Cherish Serving as Indiana Alpha's General Contractors*

While SigEp's Balanced Man program wasn't launched until after **Tim Larson '77** (top) and **Terry Larson '80** (bottom) graduated from Purdue, they've enjoyed hearing about how it has positively impacted young men all over the nation. As Indiana Alpha reestablishes itself on campus, Tim and Terry are passionate about the active members and future brothers reaping the rewards of the program. When Tim and Terry were asked about serving as Indiana Alpha's general contractors for the renovation at 690 Waldron, they didn't have to think twice about building a chapter house for balanced men.

"It is extremely rewarding to be involved in the rebirth of the fraternity and to assist with upgrading the facilities," Terry said. "We're committed to making SigEp a leading organization on campus again. While we all have great memories of the house as it was when we were there, it will be especially gratifying to help in the transformation to make it better than ever."

Tim and Terry serve as president and secretary/treasurer, respectively, of Larson-Danielson Construction Co. They've felt blessed to be leaders of their family's business, which has grown to be one of the strongest construction firms in the Midwest during its 100-plus-year history.

"We have a great staff of managers that allows me time to manage construction projects and helps me keep in contact with our field employees and our subcontractors and more engaged in the day-to-day activities," Tim said.

Their grandfather, **Raymond Larson '22**, became the second generation of the family to join the business after graduating in 1922. Shortly after Raymond entered Chapter Eternal during Tim's freshman year at Purdue, his grandmother informed him that he had followed in his grandfather's footsteps by joining Indiana Alpha.



"I always felt a connection to him because of that," Tim said. "My grandmother gave me his pledge pin and that meant a lot to me. Having served as house manager when I was there, it's good to once again be in charge of the house and to improve it for future generations of SigEps."

Tim and Terry are both thankful that SigEp helped prepare them to work closely with a diverse group of people with differing perspectives, all while coming together with a common purpose. They still have fond memories from their time as active members and have enjoyed reconnecting with several brothers from their era as they work on the project.



"I'm excited for the project to get started and look forward to bringing back Indiana Alpha and providing the members a fantastic chapter house," Tim said. "It's so important to carry on the SigEp tradition at Purdue and once again be a prominent fraternity on campus."

The Larsons are more than happy to do their part in building a bright future for Indiana Alpha by lending their construction expertise with the chapter house renovation. Whether it's through volunteering with the chapter, contributing to *The Campaign for Indiana Alpha—A New Beginning*, or joining them in giving an in-kind donation, they're encouraging all brothers to help Indiana Alpha build balanced men for years to come.

"The Balanced Man program is a terrific addition to the SigEp experience," Terry said. "The program no doubt helps our fraternity prepare our young brothers for success in their careers and family life while making them better leaders."

You can connect with Tim at [tfl@ldconstruction.com](mailto:tfl@ldconstruction.com) and Terry at [tal@ldconstruction.com](mailto:tal@ldconstruction.com).



## Striving to Make a Difference in the Lives of Our Brothers *Indiana Alpha Announces Naming Rights and Gift Challenge*

Greetings and salutations from 690 Waldron! I know we are all looking forward to hearing that again. We are excited to report that we are progressing on all fronts toward renovating and returning to 690 Waldron.

The success of Indiana Alpha relies on three areas: recruiting brothers, renovating 690 Waldron, and fundraising. We recently completed our Indiana Alpha annual meeting at Homecoming. This meeting is preceded by an alumni dinner at Mountain Jacks with all our new brothers. All in attendance would agree this was a very impressive group of young men. Despite some of the lingering COVID-19 challenges, recruitment has reached a level of normalcy and is in full swing.

In this newsletter, we have provided a renovation update. The delay of one year is not a path we would have chosen, but given the well-publicized challenges with the global supply chain and constrained construction resources, it is the right decision and in no way changes our goal.

We are pleased to announce that fundraising is going very well. We currently have donations of \$1,691,288 and are well on the way to achieving our first-level goal of \$1.75M. We are also committed to stretch our goal to \$2M, which would give us additional flexibility in meeting our renovation objectives. Our goal is to achieve donations from 20% of active alumni (1,500), or 300 donations. Currently, 172 brothers have donated, and we certainly have room to grow that number. Achieving our donor goal would guarantee achievement of the \$2M goal. Many thanks to the brothers who have donated to date.

As the architectural aspects of the 690 Waldron renovation are defined, we would like to introduce naming rights as part of the capital campaign

incentives. We have defined donation values for the various areas of the house, e.g., rooms, veranda, great room. Individual alumni donors can secure their naming rights by achieving the donation level for that area. If a group, such as a pledge class, seeks to secure an area, the required donation value increases, given the potential of several brothers donating. A plaque will be provided for that area identifying the donors and the designation. Please visit [purduesigep.org](http://purduesigep.org) and click on "Capital Campaign" for donation levels and program guidelines.

We would also like to announce our first challenge gift. Mom Nonnie Owens, housemother from 1992-2001, heard about our campaign and graciously donated \$1,500. **We are launching a challenge gift to the brothers who graduated from 1992-2004 to raise an incremental \$50,000 in order to designate the house director's suite in honor of Mom Nonnie.** We have approximately 450 brothers during this time period, and we are seeking donations of \$1,000 or more to get to the \$50,000 goal. If you were a brother during Mom Nonnie's era, we hope that you will support this challenge and honor her commitment to Indiana Alpha.

If you have questions about the campaign or donating, please visit [purduesigep.org](http://purduesigep.org) and click on "Capital Campaign." If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact me.

Fraternally,  
**Jim Mosch '80**  
Campaign Chairman  
[moschjg@gmail.com](mailto:moschjg@gmail.com)  
(443) 567-0599

## ALUMNI UPDATES

### CHAPTER ETERNAL

**Joseph T. Cave '58** – April 20, 2020

**Stephen C. Nienaber '64** – July 7, 2021

**Keith Morkel '73** (father of **Ben Morkel '05**)  
– October 28, 2021

**David E. Guinnup '75** – July 3, 2019

**Michael W. Oatis '81** – December 15, 2020

**Matt Egenolf '00** – September 28, 2021

### ALUMNI NEWS

**John Treat '66** and his wife, Ann, sold their house in spring 2020 in Galesburg, Ill., and their summer residence is now in Dexter, Mich. They spend winters in Boca Grande, Fla., which is on Florida's southwest coast near Fort Myers. John went on his annual motorcycle trip with his SigEp cousin to Marietta, Ohio, in September 2020. Email: [jrtreat@aol.com](mailto:jrtreat@aol.com)

**Ernie Malachowski '68** is retired from being the CEO of Medical Device Company. He lives in Oro Valley, Ariz., just north of Tucson. Ernie enjoys the warm winters in Arizona. Email: [esmtucson@comcast.net](mailto:esmtucson@comcast.net)

**Larry Morelock '71** is retired from the U.S. Air Force and American Airlines. He does volunteer work with Vets Helping Vets-Anderson and the Elks Lodge in Anderson, S.C. Larry and his wife, Susan, love living in upstate South Carolina in Seneca. Their red front door is open for SigEp visitors. Email: [kctoad135@gmail.com](mailto:kctoad135@gmail.com)





# Active Brothers Demonstrate What a Balanced Man Is

## Indiana Alpha Thrives Under Returned Normalcy

**A**fter our decision to go completely virtual for the spring 2021 semester to follow Protect Purdue Guidelines and stop the spread of COVID-19, I am beyond happy to say that the Indiana Alpha Chapter has resumed all in-person activities.

We have been fortunate enough to hold biweekly dinners and go to events such as paintball, laser tag, volleyball, and skydiving. With this, active brothers have been able to build stronger relationships and are even more focused on establishing this chapter as one of the best on campus.

This semester, we held our third annual Balanced Man Scholarship, which is one of our best ways to meet potential new members who exceed the expectations of what a normal student here at Purdue is. We were able to put on several weeks' worth of recruitment events, where we had insightful discussions about SigEp with an average attendance of over 20 potential members. Potential new members were then assigned to a brother, and smaller interactions were conducted in person. This approach has been extremely successful, as we have gained nine brothers in the first half of the semester.

Academically, our goal is to keep reaching for the highest all-campus cumulative GPA while continuously building our fraternity—one balanced man at a time.

Lastly, I would like to thank all of those who have been supporting the Indiana Alpha Chapter. Without the continuous support and mentorship from the National Headquarters, invested alumni, the AVC, and all who want to see Sigma Phi Epsilon succeed at Purdue again, we would not be where we are today or where we plan to be in the future.

Fraternally,

**Justin Postma '22**

Chapter President



*Spring and fall 2021 new members complete the Sigma Rite of Passage at Purdue University on October 30. From left: Brandon Hsia '24, Jeffrey Hwang '23, Luke Muckerheide '25, Jesse Alspaugh '25, Brayden McClellan '25, Krish Jain '24, Griffin Laihinen '24, Jason Fitzsimons '25, Caleb Stanford '25, Lichao Shen '24, and Jasper Ye '25.*



*SigEp's paintball event at the Paintball Barn was a hit! From left: Brandon Hsia '24, Griffin Laihinen '24, Jasper Ye '25, Lichao Shen '24, Justin Postma '22, Krish Jain '24, Kevin Homan '22, Jesse Alspaugh '25, Drew Cook '25, and Luke Muckerheide '25.*

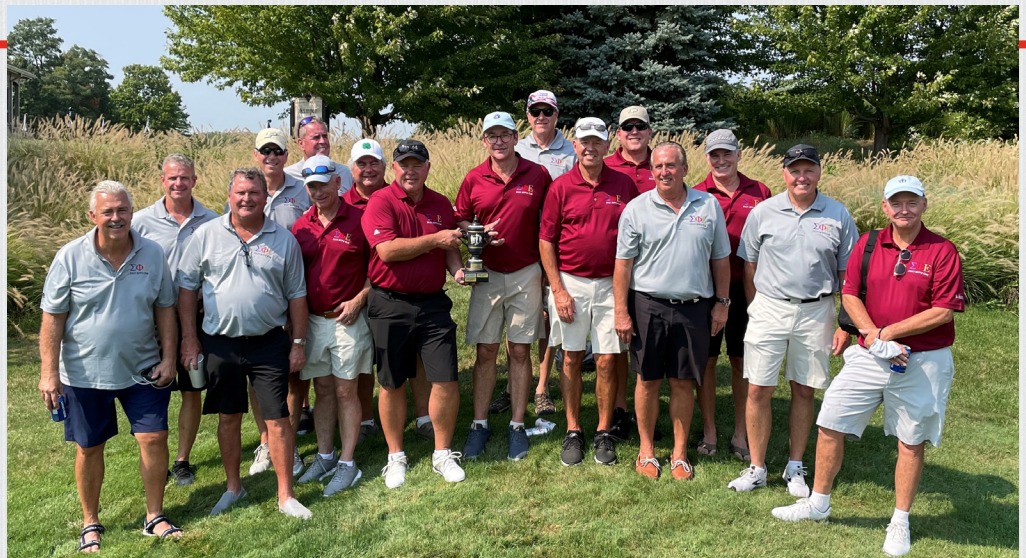


*Brothers don purple during their chapter meeting to show support for survivors of sexual assault.*

**Christian Davis '25 • Wolcott, Ind.**  
**Jason Fitzsimons '25 • Highland Park, Ill.**  
**Griffin Laihinen '24 • Lakeville, Minn.**  
**Brayden McClellan '25 • Carmel, Ind.**

## WELCOME, New Members!

**Luke Muckerheide '25 • Greenfield, Ind.**  
**Harry Nguyen '25 • San Francisco, Calif.**  
**Caleb Stanford '25 • Kenosha, Wis.**  
**Jasper Ye '25 • Hacienda Heights, Calif.**



*We love seeing our alumni reconnect in person once again!*



## What Does Greek Life Look Like Moving Forward?

Associate Dean of Students Brandon Cutler  
Outlines Steps for Future Success

A surge of volunteers, an honest conversation about student well-being, and a plan to expand diversity: according to Director of Fraternity, Sorority, and Cooperative Life and Associate Dean of Students Brandon Cutler, that's how fraternities and sororities will maintain relevancy in the undergraduate experience.

The Greek life experience has changed since Brandon was in Theta Chi at Iowa State University in 2004. He recognizes the way the world has changed, the variation of communal backgrounds, and the hardships students face in the present day; but if there's one thing Brandon knows to be true, it's that Greek life is important.

"SigEp, as a national organization, has been a leader in the fraternity industry for decades. They look at the student experience from a holistic perspective. Enhancing social environments and membership development experiences are an asset we lean on to provide ultimate living and learning experiences."

Brandon believes that the future of Greek life relies on meeting outcomes-based objectives. Having more alumni volunteers to take on mentorship roles encourages students to understand their career aspirations; creating conversation about student well-being calls on higher education stakeholders to discuss financial insecurity and mental health; expanding diversity and inclusion creates a more vibrant, fulfilling student experience.

"Students need someone to challenge them; helping them get good grades or graduate on time is wonderful, but students need someone to guide them into their full potential," Brandon posits. He believes that each organization should have 30-40 volunteers to mentor students; the expertise, value, and companionship they provide to students in need of direction is invaluable.

When discussing student success, the conversation must center around the whole student. Universities and higher education partners should coordinate a plan that provides resources, direction, and potential solutions to students. At Purdue, financial affordability, mental health and well-being, and diversity and inclusion have become a clear focus. In fact, Purdue has frozen tuition for over 10 consecutive years under the leadership of President Daniels.

"Financial burdens can limit opportunities for students. It's important to consider living-and-learning models that offer unique housing options, including senior discounts, variable room rate, or compensation for facility leadership roles to help students graduate without a mountain of debt."

Brandon encourages students to take advantage of campus resources. In recent years, the conversation around mental health has increased, widening the opportunity for students to seek help or assurance if they need it. "Going to the counseling center is understood, by most students, as a positive resource, and it's something we really hope students will continue to utilize," Brandon added.

# FROM THE HEART

A PUBLICATION FOR ALUMNI OF INDIANA ALPHA ♦ SIGMA PHI EPSILON



## Sigma Phi Epsilon-Indiana Alpha Purdue University

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## ANNUAL MEETING WELL ATTENDED

Indiana Alpha's Sigma Phi Epsilon annual meeting was held on Saturday, October 2, at the Purdue Memorial Union following an informal dinner on October 1 at Mountain Jacks in Lafayette, Indiana.

The dinner was well attended, with over 33 alumni, a few wives, and 11 undergraduates. It was a very informative get-together where many learned about past brothers and future possibilities.

The meeting presented the following topics, which are critical right now: State of the chapter and recruitment, finances and fundraising, chapter house remodel, and looking toward the future.

We also held the election of the 2021-22 AVC board members: **Mike Ellis '84, Brian Rodell '98, Mark**

**Napier '92, Chris Kelly '80, Jim Mosch '80, Scott Swisher '79, Ted Hazledine '65, Norm Nabhan '71, and Jim Quinn '83.**

Some on the board also met with Brandon Cutler, associate dean of students and director of fraternities and sororities, prior to the dinner. Please enjoy our interview with Mr. Cutler to the left.

Also, I encourage you to get involved in our efforts to return 690 Waldron to its rightful place in the Greek community!

HFF,  
**Chris Kelly '80**  
Director of Alumni Relations

Brandon implores universities and higher education partners to strategize a plan to enhance the student-learning experience, learn from people with different backgrounds, and explore various cultures. Fraternities, sororities, and cooperatives members are 80 percent Caucasian, while the overall campus percentage is only 60. He asked, "How do we create a fraternity's living-and-learning environment to feel welcoming to students that come from diverse backgrounds if we're not considering their needs within the structure and strategy of our organizations?"

Ultimately, Greek life 10, 20, or 30 years from now is unpredictable. "I wish I had a crystal ball," Brandon added. The most effective plan for the University and higher education partners is to ask themselves what they want the future to look like and determine the most feasible way to get there. The first step to undergraduate success is ensuring that students' needs and desires are understood and acknowledged in action.

To hear Brandon's thoughts on strategizing the future of Greek life, you can read his full interview at [purduesigep.org](http://purduesigep.org). You can also check out Purdue's long-term visions at [purdue.edu/purduemoves](http://purdue.edu/purduemoves).