

# FROM THE HEART

A PUBLICATION FOR ALUMNI OF INDIANA ALPHA ♦ SIGMA PHI EPSILON ♦ FALL 2023

PURDUESIGEP.ORG



## PREPARING THE HOUSE FOR "A NEW BEGINNING"

**F**or all those who attended the recent Homecoming festivities, you witnessed a transformation of SigEp at Purdue University. It was great to see so many brothers return to 690 Waldron. Many brothers drove to Purdue, while others, such as brothers from the '60s and the "Little Kings" gang, made a weekend of it.

### RECENT GROWTH

We have made great progress, and there is a lot of excitement at 690 Waldron! We currently have 50 brothers, with a goal of 70 by May 2024. Members moving back into the house has had an amazing impact on our chapter. 690 Waldron is now a catalyst for undergraduates and alumni to revitalize Indiana Alpha.

We have a phased renovation planned, tackling each floor over the next three years. **Tim Larson '77** and **Terry Larson '80** of Larson-Danielson have been working diligently to build a plan that will achieve our renovation objectives.

### CAMPAIGN PROGRESS

*The Campaign for Indiana Alpha—A New Beginning* began in January 2019 and officially announced in February 2020. We are now in year five, as the pandemic, inflation, and interest rates have protracted the campaign. **Through patience and commitment, the brotherhood has delivered our first goal of \$1.75 million.**

Given the challenges of inflation and interest rates, our stretch goal of \$2 million is now imperative.

The final push will ensure we accomplish all our objectives and are competitive with other fraternities on campus.

As we grow closer to this goal, it is time to start winding down our official campaign efforts. The campaign will end in early 2024 once we strike the donor plaque. Until then, we will focus on three initiatives to close our \$250,000 gap.

### CHAIRMEN'S CHALLENGE

The following brothers have increased their already generous gift to create a \$125,000, \$1 for \$1 matching gift challenge: **Nick Harris '79** (+\$50,000), **Scott Swisher '79** (+\$25,000), **Jim Mosch '80** (\$25,000), **Ted Hazeldine '65** (+\$15,000), and **Doug Bowen '93** (+\$10,000). We are reaching out to all brothers to raise a total of \$125,000 to secure this challenge gift.

The focus of this challenge is the recognition that if you made a gift or have not yet donated, you may ask yourself, "Is this a good investment?" We move forward with optimism and certainty of success. In every way, your gift is an investment in Indiana Alpha, ensuring the future of the brotherhood and that SigEp will be at Purdue for years to come.

### NAMING RIGHTS

With the renovation underway, we have finalized house plans for a 62-man occupancy. As a result, we have updated the naming rights program and have defined donation values for various areas of

the house. Naming Rights is a great opportunity for donors or donor groups to honor a brother or group, commemorate an event, or provide a memorial to a friend. A plaque will be provided for that space, identifying the donor(s) and the designation. Please visit [purduesigep.org/naming-rights](http://purduesigep.org/naming-rights) for donation levels and program guidelines.

Thus far, naming rights have been secured by **The Brothers of the '50s** for the Learning Center, **Norm Nabhan '71** and **Doug Nabhan '77** for the Chapter Room, and the Great Hall by the **Fall '76 Pledge Class**; the Library will be named after Dr. Nancy Friedersdorf, donor and chapter advisor.

### MOM NONNIE CHALLENGE

We launched this program with a goal of raising an incremental \$50,000 to secure naming rights for the house director suite in her honor. Please see below for more detail on the challenge.

We are definitely "on our way" as we move to wrap up the capital campaign, but we are not done yet. If you have not yet contributed, you can be confident that a donation is an investment in Indiana Alpha. If you have already donated, we hope the certainty of our future will encourage you to increase your gift.

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

## MOM NONNIE CHALLENGE UPDATE

Attention Brothers from 1992-2004!

**E**arlier this year Indiana Alpha launched our first **Challenge Gift** in honor of Mom Nonnie Owens, House Mom at 690 Waldron from 1992-2001.

Our challenge goal is to raise \$50,000 to designate the House Directors Suite in honor of Mom Nonnie. With approximately 500 brothers from the Mom Nonnie-era (pin #s ~1752-2265), I (**Kris Zambo '97**) ask for your support to honor her commitment to Indiana Alpha.

When Mom Nonnie heard about our campaign, she graciously donated \$1,500 and upon recent updates regarding the renovation and reopening of the house, has increased her gift to \$2,000. She has also created a video message in support of the challenge, which you can view on our website or by using the QR code to the right.

(Continued on page 3)



SCAN  
HERE

# THE CAMPAIGN FOR INDIANA ALPHA — A New Beginning

## Thank You for Supporting Indiana Alpha

Thank you to the following donors who have given 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 contact our campaign coordinator at [alehr@penningtonco.com](mailto:alehr@penningtonco.com). Thank you!

Want to add your name to the donor list or increase your giving level? View your options at [purduesigep.org/give-now](http://purduesigep.org/give-now).

### Order of the Balanced Man (\$250,000 and above)

### Indiana Alpha Circle (\$100,000 to \$249,999)

Bequest from John R. Grayson '46  
Hal Shevers '57  
Norman E. Nabhan '71  
Nick D. Harris '79  
James G. Mosch '80  
Doug Bowen '93

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

Anonymous  
Michael G. Ellis '84  
Mark A. Napier '92

1905 League  
(\$25,000 to \$49,999)  
Anonymous  
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 Ganter '72  
Douglas M. Nabhan '77  
In honor of  
Norm Nabhan '71  
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  
Edward 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  
Nancy Friedersdorf, Ph.D.  
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  
James S. Keller '69  
Kenneth D. MacLean '70  
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" McGlinicy '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

Jack N. Donohew '95  
Matthew D. Bennett '00  
Benjamin R. Miller '01  
Jacob G. Plesac '12

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

John C. Miller '58  
John R. Schiffer '61  
Lawrence K. Volland '63  
G. Scott Dixon '64  
Thomas W. Wolff '65  
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  
In memory of  
Stephen Easley '74  
Steven E. Wilson '78  
Thomas R. Orton '79  
Timothy J. Kelly '80  
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  
Chad B. Ciesil '93  
Grant R. Lohse '02  
Wade H. Miller '02  
Dustin R. Longest '04  
Andrew M. Dec '05

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

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

Steven Wong  
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  
Bill M. Reid '60  
Robert T. Thorson '61  
Robert H. Sheridan '62  
Kenneth A. Campbell '64  
Robert L. Flint '64  
David D. Schoeff '64  
Byron H. White '64  
Andrew R. Ceperley '65  
Lawrence B. Heitz '66  
John Park Hunter '66  
Gilbert J. Frey '66  
Kenneth G. Miller '66  
Michael A. Burdick '67  
Richard T. Friestadt '67  
Jack Kacsur '67\*  
Logan F. Wernz '67  
Michael A. Gilbert '68  
Steve R. Simmons '68  
August G. Voelkel '68  
Jeffrey V. Conopask '69  
C. Kelley Davidson '69  
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  
Warren W. Browning '78  
Kerry A. Prielipp '79  
John R. Esgate '80  
Albert P. D'Andrea '81  
John W. Mac Gregor '82  
Barry L. Olson '82  
J.D. Landgrebe '84  
Peter N. Peregrine '84  
In memory of  
Christopher R. Peregrine '82  
Scott L. Uebele '85  
Thomas P. Andrews '86  
James D. Farley '86  
William J. Needham '86  
Scott L. Doelling '87  
Gregory E. Schiffli '91  
Douglas M. Melton '97  
Craig S. Lill '02  
Patrick K. Crawford '03  
Paul J. Feldmann '07

\*Participant in Mom Nonnie Challenge

## Campaign Status at a Glance

As of  
November 21, 2023

Stretch Goal  
\$2 Million

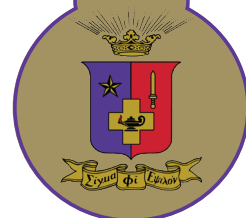
Total Commitments  
\$1,783,782

Total Contributors  
202

\$2 MILLION STRETCH GOAL

\$1.75  
MILLION  
GOAL

\$2,000,000  
\$1,750,000  
\$1,500,000  
\$1,250,000  
\$1,000,000  
\$750,000  
\$500,000  
\$250,000  
\$100,000





# FOCUSING THE COMPASS

## Mitch Salyers '93 on the Future of Indiana Alpha

**M**itch Salyers '93 is no stranger to serving Indiana Alpha. From undergraduate experiences as chapter historian and secretary to his time as a chapter counselor, Mitch has grown through his SigEp membership while doing whatever he can for the brotherhood. Today, he is glad to see a positive trajectory for the chapter's future.

### FRATERNAL VALUES

"I was looking for people that I shared common interests with," Mitch said about his decision to join SigEp. The brotherhood's shared ideals resonated with Mitch, compelling him to contribute to the group through collaborative efforts.

In his undergraduate roles, Mitch learned plenty about decision-making and the functionalities of an organization. Even through probation, Mitch and the executive board navigated challenges to return to good standing. "Sigma Phi Epsilon taught me how to function in this world."

### LIFE BEYOND PURDUE

After graduating with an industrial engineering degree, Mitch found his way into a retail management role. He had success while refining business skills, even earning two manager of the year awards, though Mitch eventually decided to shift to teaching.

Mitch earned an elementary license while teaching preschool, spending the next 12 years as a general elementary instructor. He was one of the outstanding teachers of his district prior to becoming a secondary math teacher, eventually moving to purchasing a preschool in Franklin, Indiana, with his wife. Following her passing, Mitch took over as director of the preschool this year and is proud to have developed the school as a family business.

### STAYING INVOLVED

When reading an issue of *From the Heart*, Mitch decided to contact **Brian Rodell '99** about the chapter's status. Their connection led to Mitch becoming Balanced Man steward for the chapter prior to the chapter's closing.

Once SigEp returned to campus, Mitch was nominated for his counselor role. Mitch's teaching background prepared him for guiding young men as they figured out how their new brotherhood's culture alongside the national organization of SigEp.

With a substance-free facility still undergoing construction at Purdue, the new brotherhood is navigating the obstacles and challenges associated with colonization. Mitch sees a bright future ahead for SigEp at Purdue, and he is confident that today's members can properly represent the fraternity on campus.

"We've got a strong group of young men who have the right moral compass," Mitch said. It's up to today's members to stay on the right track for goals like rechartering, membership growth, and reaching the top in academics. Alumni mentoring can help steer the ship in the right direction, so Mitch urges brothers to volunteer their time for SigEp.



You can connect with Mitch at [salyers5725@gmail.com](mailto:salyers5725@gmail.com).

*"I wish I was part of the chapter we have today: an outstanding group of young men who, given the right input, are going to be the leaders we see in America."*

## MOM NONNIE CHALLENGE UPDATE

(Continued from page 1)

Like many of you, I have great memories of Mom Nonnie and the impact she had on Indiana Alpha and us as individuals. For this reason, I have volunteered to help lead this challenge and to get the word out for financial support.

What we need from each of you is to help us connect with Indiana Alpha brothers from this outstanding era and help support the challenge financially to get us to our \$50,000 goal. We are seeking gifts of \$1,000 or more and greatly appreciate your support. We look forward to a ribbon cutting for the House Directors Suite!

You can access more information, as well as make your online contribution for this Mom Nonnie Challenge at [purduesigep.org/mom-nonnie-challenge](http://purduesigep.org/mom-nonnie-challenge).



*Are you up to the challenge?*

Thank you for your consideration!

Fraternally,  
**Kris Zambo '97**

Mom Nonnie Challenge Coordinator  
[kris.zambo@veolia.com](mailto:kris.zambo@veolia.com) | (773) 343-9493

## Help Us Grow the Brotherhood

→ *Send Your* ←  
**Recruitment Referrals**

**D**o you know a young man attending Purdue who would be a great fit for SigEp? Please send any referrals to **Rian Mitchell '25** at [mitch429@purdue.edu](mailto:mitch429@purdue.edu) and **Christian Davis '24** at [davi1429@purdue.edu](mailto:davi1429@purdue.edu).

Please send us their name, major, year in school, and who referred them.



# Indiana Alpha's Recent Events

## OUR FOCUS ON LEARNING, LEADERSHIP, AND ACADEMICS

Indiana Alpha had an eventful summer and start to the fall semester.

### GRAND CHAPTER CONCLAVE

**Christian Davis '24** and **Brandon Hsia '23** had the privilege of representing our chapter at the 58th Grand Chapter Conclave. This biennial event, orchestrated by SigEp Nationals, brought together members from all corners of the nation, fostering unity and celebrating outstanding achievements.

Brothers engaged in personal and professional growth activities while honoring those who have contributed to the fraternity's greatness through prestigious awards. Christian reflected on the experience, emphasizing the joy of reuniting with brothers from around the world and extending gratitude to **Jeffrey Hwang '23** for his assistance during air travel.

### TRAGOS QUEST TO GREECE

**Luke Muckerheide '25** embarked on the Tragos Quest to Greece, guided by alumni mentors and university faculty. This journey delved into Greek philosophy, governance, and the enduring influence of the arts on daily life.

Immersed in Greek culture, brother Muckerheide found inspiration in the beauty of Delphi, Olympia, and Athens, rediscovering the profound wisdom of ancient Greek philosophy.

### LEARNING TO LEAD

**Jordan Hindes '26** and **Anthony Mendoza '26** attended the Frank J. Ruck Leadership Institute in Richmond, Virginia, where they explored the Five Pillars of Exemplary Leadership and deepened their understanding of SigEp's history.

Jordan delved into his leadership style through the Student Leadership Practice Inventory assessment, while Anthony had the opportunity to connect with prominent SigEps, learning about the values of virtue, diligence, and brotherly love.

### FRATERNAL SUCCESS

The fraternity excelled academically, boasting a cumulative GPA of 3.45, surpassing both the IFC and all-men averages. Our efforts earned us first place in cumulative GPA and new member GPA.

Fall recruitment week yielded 14 new brothers, just two short of the fall goal. Though we are nearing our goal, our commitment to year-round recruitment ensures the continuous search for quality individuals to share the SigEp experience.

Indiana Alpha hosted its inaugural Parents' Weekend tailgate, providing an opportunity for brothers to connect with alumni and parents. The fraternity also collaborated with Purdue CARE to raise awareness about sexual assault prevention.

Indiana Alpha Chapter had an outstanding year, achieving success across various facets of fraternity life. The members should take pride in their accomplishments and continue their pursuit of excellence.

Faternally,  
**Christian Davis '24**, Chapter President



*Above: Our annual camping trip! This year, brothers went to Raccoon Lake State Park and had a wonderful time getting to know the newer members of the chapter.*

*Below: Jordan Hindes '26 (left) and Anthony Mendoza '26 (right) at Ruck Leadership Institute over the summer, where they had the chance to meet past Grand President Billy Maddalon, North Carolina State '90.*





# Healthy Mind, Healthy Body

## Indiana Alpha Chapter Is Pleased to Introduce George Ciporkin, SigEp's New House Director

**H**onored to be a part of the reestablishment of SigEp at Purdue, George is looking forward to creating a welcoming and safe environment for brothers living in and visiting the chapter house. "I am proud of how dedicated the current brothers are to SigEp and everything the fraternity stands for," he shared.

George has maintained an interest in Purdue since he was in high school. "It was the only university my parents and I visited when I was a junior." A few years later while serving as a house director at the University of Iowa, he discovered our chapter was seeking a replacement for Momma Nonnie. "House Directors Professionals was able to give me detailed information on what the AVC was looking for in their search," he said. "It was an excellent match since I was looking for a residence-life position that would incorporate my health professional background into the role."

George earned his bachelor's degree at Duke University. "I went on to receive a D.D.S. degree from Northwestern University and then an M.D. from the University of Toledo." After that, he completed a pathology internship at Brown University, a residency in diagnostic radiology at the University of Kentucky, and a radiology fellowship at the University of Virginia.

He practiced general dentistry before going on to medical school. "I worked for a private practice as a radiologist and then became an assistant professor of radiology at the West Virginia University School of Medicine."



Beginning in 2015, George was the live-in president of the board at the University Club of Bethlehem in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

In addition to his work in medicine, George is also an entrepreneur. "In 2016, I formed a company to design a product that links my health professional background with my interests in foreign languages and international travel. I developed a prototype app called Lingo Medico, which provides the traveler's past medical history and current medical and dental symptoms in six foreign languages." George

hopes to expand the app's capabilities with the help of Purdue's engineering department and the Purdue Life Foundation.

George also plans to utilize his experience in healthcare in his role as SigEp house director. "I want to partner with all the health services provided for the students, including mental health, as a benefit and a resource to all of SigEp on campus," he said. "I want to use food, nutrition, supplements, exercise, and stress reduction to fortify the residents' immune system, increase cognitive performance, and reach a higher level of overall health and wellness."

As a firm believer in the link between maintaining a healthy body and a healthy mind, George hopes to help the SigEp brothers find balance in all they do. "My goal is to encourage the residents to strive for academic excellence with wisdom and compassion."

After coming to the United States from Argentina, George's family settled in Miami, Florida, when he was still a child. He is fluent in Spanish and proficient in Brazilian Portuguese. "In my spare time, I like to exercise, and I go to the Co-Rec on campus at least five days a week. I very much enjoy the performing arts as well as college athletics!"



If you'd like to hear more about George's vision for the SigEp house, you can send him an email at [gciporkin2@msn.com](mailto:gciporkin2@msn.com).

## Welcome, New Members

**Jai Agarwal** | Lorton, Va.

**Radwan Lone** | Ramallah, Palestine

**Mark Monie** | Singapore

**Cooper Croslyn** | Newburgh, Ind.

**Gabe Martinez** | Carmel, Ind.

**Adi Nayar** | Eden Prairie, Minn.

**JJ Herro** | Granville, Ohio

**Russell Mathews** | Arlington Heights, Ill.

**Thomas Nelson** | Belton, Texas

**Ethan Horn** | Naperville, Ill.

**Dustin Matty** | Fond du Lac, Wis.

**Sonny Rayn** | Saint Louis, Mo.

**Aadit Kumar** | Bangkok, Thailand

**Owen Skoglund** | Minooka, Ill.

# Indiana Alpha Is Challenging You to Act Now!

## \$125,000 Dollar-for-Dollar Challenge

*Don't let us leave money on the table!*

## \$50,000 Mom Nonnie Challenge

*Help us secure naming rights in her honor!*

See inside for more information on how and why you should include Indiana Alpha in your year-end giving. **We need you!**

# FROM THE HEART

A PUBLICATION FOR ALUMNI OF INDIANA ALPHA ♦ SIGMA PHI EPSILON



**Sigma Phi Epsilon-Indiana Alpha**

**Purdue University**

P.O. Box 442100

Lawrence, KS 66044-2100

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## OPENING THE RED DOORS

### *Indiana Alpha Gets Back on Track*

**W**e've just made a major leap toward bringing the house back to campus! Our roof, which was more than 100 years old, was renovated and broken shingles were replaced to complete our first step toward getting 690 Waldron back in shape. Our next step is the cold-air dorm, which will be turned into living quarters. The KDs (sorority that occupied our home for a while) not only took great care of it, but they also made some improvements that we will enjoy for some time.

We now have a new house director (see his interview on page 5) named George Ciporkin, who comes to us highly recommended. Hopefully, he can live up to the reputation of Mom Nonnie!

### **HOMEcoming RECAP**

Homecoming was a great success. We were glad to bring the brotherhood in to meet the current undergraduates, take a tour, and see folks they may not have seen in 40-45 years. We even had the "geezer" group of more than 35 SigEps who graduated in the early '60s in attendance to enjoy the facilities.

We were also honored to welcome **John Derr '58**. (I may or may not have been born in 1958!) Record attendance was achieved at the cookout announcing our return to Purdue's campus.

A group of SigEps who graduated in the mid-'70s have an annual (mostly) golf outing called the Little Kings Open. It was held this year in Attica, Indiana. Eight participants and eight spectators were in attendance. The group has been doing this for approximately 44 years! Congratulations to the Little King participants.

### **GUIDANCE AND OPTIMISM**

Also featured in this issue on page 3 is **Mitch Salyers '93**, who has been instrumental in getting our membership back on track after a long hiatus. Thanks for all your efforts, Mitch!

We just received a glowing letter and great review from Brandon Cutler, associate dean of students and director of fraternity, sorority, and cooperative life, stating that Sigma Phi Epsilon is well on its way to return to the upper levels of fraternities.

Fraternally,  
**Chris Kelly '80**  
AVC Alumni Relations Director



*Thank you to everyone who attended our Homecoming gathering!*