

FROM THE HEART

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

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IN WITH THE NEW

Members Shift Focus to Recruitment—How Will You Get Involved?

I hope this letter finds you well. After attending Carlson Leadership Academy in late February and our Alumni Volunteer Council (AVC) Strategic Direction Retreat in early March, there is encouraging progress to report; however, that is tempered by the work and challenges that remain to bounce back from the loss of approximately 75% of our membership over the past year and a half.

AVC Treasurer **Brian Todd '97** and I joined our undergraduate executive board in attending Carlson Leadership Academy in Lombard, Illinois. Our primary goals were to further expand our understanding of the Balanced Man Program, identify AVC best practices, and educate our undergraduates on how to best reinstall the program within our current membership. In my opinion, we achieved our goals, as well as left with a renewed sense of urgency in driving for tangible results and the reestablishment of standards that have existed at Indiana Alpha for many years but had recently fallen off.

In early March, we kicked off a half-day meeting with alumni volunteers and undergraduate executive board members with the intent of refocusing our efforts related to recruitment, member development, and development of our chapter leadership. What we found was quite humbling!

Though we have been able to make large strides in areas of finance and chapter facilities, we are not seeing good enough results in the areas of recruitment and member development. Recruitment numbers over the past year have been historically low—12 fall new members and six spring members to date. This is partially due to low to no underclassman membership and negative perception from university sanctions. However, we can also attribute low overall active

membership support on poor planning and execution. We continue to struggle to deliver the experience that we sell during recruitment, but the good news is that we are committed to fixing it.

The way forward includes setting high expectations and standards and moving past using what may be legitimate excuses for how we got where we are for the sake of moving toward where we want to be. I am extremely encouraged by the young leaders we have on the undergraduate executive board and the core group of upperclassmen serving as the example of what good young men act like. What we need, however, are alumni volunteers willing and able to donate time to help us get where we need to be. Below are the positions we are working to fill, both locally and across the country.

- BMP steward
- Faculty advisory
- Chapter counselor
- Mentor to the chaplain - standards board
- Mentor to the VP of communications
- Mentor to the VP of programming
- Alumni relations - help with event planning

If you are interested in joining the board or serving any sort of complementary role, please contact **Jay Bilunas '99** at jay@angryape.com.



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

UNDERGRADUATES KEEP HEADS HIGH IN TIME OF CHANGE

Chapter Named Top Three on Campus, Fourth in Academics

Our Indiana Alpha Chapter has been in some tough situations recently, but we are prevailing and looking forward to the future. Even through times of struggle we have stuck to the basics of virtue, diligence, and brotherly love, which has given us excellent



Brothers teamed up to win the fraternity gold basketball championship.

results. In the fall of 2014, we achieved a chapter GPA of 3.13, which placed us fourth in academics among all fraternities on Purdue University's campus. Along with our stellar academics, we have had some great publicity from *The Exponent*, which recently ranked us third best fraternity on campus. With this being so, it has showed that if we stick to our fundamental aspects of our fraternity it can take us extraordinary places.

Though we had some rough times, I believe that the worst is behind us. Currently, we have 33 active members who are all heavily involved and maintain the right intentions. Members have been busy this spring semester, hosting a brotherhood paintballing event, Parent's Weekend, and raising support for our philanthropic event, Sandy Slam.

This spring we recruited six new members and are looking forward to recruitment in the fall because the chapter will be more active, which will naturally make recruitment easier. Next fall we are looking to have 25 excited members living in the chapter house, which is a huge increase from this spring with only four. With an enthused group of guys living-in and the Balanced Man Program beginning to function, we remain optimistic for the future of the chapter.

Thank you to our loyal alumni who volunteer their time to the chapter. We strive to continue the legacy and build balanced men for another 100 years.

Fraternally,
Nick Burgess '17
Chapter President



GIVING BACK FOR THE BRICKS AND MORTAR

Keith Baker '75—*Why I Stay Connected*

For the past nine months I have been able to renew my relationship with the red bricks and mortar at 690 Waldron.

My career in the military and with the airlines took me far away from West Lafayette, so I had not set foot in the house for nearly 40 years. However, I felt instantly at home when I walked through the doors in August 2014.

What I saw last summer at 690 Waldron that I called home for four years is in need of some serious TLC. The physical structure is as much a strength of our fraternity as the brotherhood itself. Its over 100-year history speaks to you when you walk the halls. Brothers throughout history have been shaped in this old house—guys who have changed lives got their start *here*.

This building that played such an important role in molding and preparing me, and hundreds of brothers since 1905, seemed to be calling out for help. Within weeks of my visit I met with officers from the alumni board and did a walk-through of most of the rooms, making notes and plans for what needed to be cleaned up, thrown out, or renovated. Connections with several other interested alumni provided promises of some initial funding for paint and supplies.

The partnership between alumni and undergraduates is key in the long-range health and viability of the chapter. Over the past six months we

have conducted numerous work sessions, and the energy displayed by the new members is fantastic. I encourage my fellow alumni to step up to the plate and volunteer. I particularly want to thank **Bruce Cole '82**, **Dennis Lange '74**, and **Luke Gorski '04** for their contributions and labor of love.



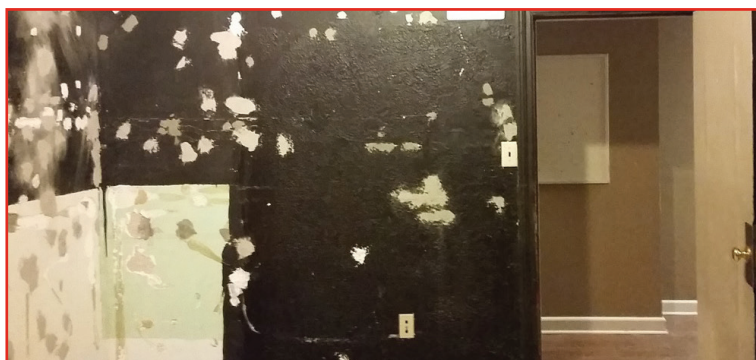
Keith Baker '75 and his wife, Andrea, live in Nashville, Indiana.

To date we have totally gutted and repaired the walls, floors, and ceilings in 12 of the rooms and have finished painting seven of those. In April, we will continue painting and get some new carpeting down. Our goal is to have 20 out of the 30 rooms in livable condition by the start of the fall semester. I have promised to make rooms available just as fast as the undergraduates can recruit new members in the rebuilding of the chapter.

It has been very rewarding to head up to the house and work for a few days each month. I have set up a cot in my old room (room 18) and enjoy recreating the feelings of an 18-year-old once again. I encourage you to come to the house for some work and camaraderie. Whether your hands are fitted to a hammer or a paint brush, rest assured we can find a meaningful place for you to contribute. For those of you who can't make it in person, a financial contribution can really make a difference.

Together, let's give back to the bricks and mortar at 690 Waldron. To contact me, send me an e-mail at spinbaker@mindspring.com.

State of the rooms in 2014 when the renovation project began.
Visit 690 Waldron to see the progress for yourself!





WELCOME, SPRING NEW MEMBERS

Bryant Bechtold '18
Carmel, Ind.

Cole Erny '18
Jasper, Ind.

Mark Lawlor '18
Flossmoor, Ill.

Jansen Lee '18
San Jose, Calif.

Joseph Sawicki '18
Carol Stream, Ill.

Spencer Torline '17
Madison, Ind.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President

Nick Burgess '17

VP of Member Development

Matt Pfister '16

VP of Programming
TBD

VP of Recruitment
Connor Zehak '16

VP of Finance
Troy Cutler '15

VP of Communications
Joseph Chow '18

Chaplain
Andy Enright '15

Risk Manager
Eric Erli '17

House Manager
Greg Timm '15

Sigma Challenge Coordinator
Matthew Leitz '18

Philanthropy Chairman
Brett Fitzpatrick '16

Alumni Update

CHAPTER ETERNAL

William H. Farquharson '39 entered Chapter Eternal. He was a resident of Yardley, Pa.

Gordon E. Bausman '41 entered Chapter Eternal on October 18, 2013, just 11 days after his 95th birthday from congestive heart failure. He was still driving a week before he passed away and still holds the record at Rensselaer High School in the long-jump set in 1936. Gordon was a resident of Rensselaer, Ind.

Robert M. Skallerup '42 entered Chapter Eternal September 2, 2012. He was a resident of Norton Shores, Mich., and loved Purdue and Sigma Phi Epsilon his entire life.

Jim J. Portteus '50 entered Chapter Eternal on January 18, 2014. He was a resident of Chandler, Ind.

Emory C. Thomas '51 entered Chapter Eternal on February 5, 2012, after his battle with melanoma. He was an engineer before retiring in Huntington Beach, Calif.

W. Graham Duncan '57 entered Chapter Eternal on October 19, 2013, at his home in Hopkinsville, Ky. "He was always proud to be a SigEp and a Purdue University graduate," says his wife, Mary Alice.

Douglas F. Molls '73 entered Chapter Eternal in 1991. He was a resident of Cleveland, Ohio.

ALUMNI NEWS

Kenneth E. Weidner '47 is 91 years old and lives in Albuquerque, N.M. He says he's "hanging in there."

Robert G. Coleman '50 and his wife, Maxine, served as volunteers for five years for the Friends of NEFSH Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing awareness of the devastating effects of mental illness through its sponsorship of Northeast Florida State Hospital. E-mail: agspert@aol.com

Jerry L. Sokol '53 retired as president of Mill Creek Racing Inc., a real estate investment corporation he worked with for 25 years. He lives in Squaw Valley, Calif., with his wife, Christine. E-mail: pasofinojls@wildblue.net

Lloyd M. Townley '53 retired in 1990 and moved to Pebble Beach, Calif. "The world is great with a wonderful wife." E-mail: 356lt@aol.com

David B. Meinhardt '54 has been retired for more than 14 years from Stanford Computer Optics and has been traveling since. David spends time skiing and flying airplanes. He lived in France and Germany for 15+ years and as a result lost contact with SigEp brothers for a while. David wishes Indiana Alpha brothers all the best now and going forward. He and his wife, Erika, live in Palo Alto, Calif. E-mail: davidmeinhardt@sbcglobal.net

Harold Shevers Jr. '57 lives in Cincinnati, Ohio, with his wife, Sandy, and cherishes his SigEp memories. "Old age sucks, but it is better than the alternative," he says.

John F. Derr '58 is CEO of JD & Associates Enterprises Inc., a company that specializes in strategic clinical technology with a focus on long-term and post-acute care. He has over 50 years of top executive level experience in most facets of healthcare and has started four healthcare companies. John is a member of a number of corporate boards, providing guidance on clinical health information technology. He has published a fictional novel on international pharmaceutical espionage, as well as numerous articles and webinars. John and his wife, Polly, live in Anacortes, Wash. E-mail: jfderr@mac.com

Richard F. Trowbridge '59 and his wife, Judith, have three grandsons and one granddaughter. Dick has a master's degree from the University of Southern California, two distinguished flying crosses for B52 operations in Vietnam, and served as the chief evaluation analysis branch, bombing and navigation division, as well as headquarters strategic air command. He retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1983 and lives in Warner Robins, Ga.

Frank L. Wellwerts '61 and his wife, Jeanne, split their time between Woodstock, Ill., and Chandler, Ariz. This way he can play golf year-round and his wife can garden and enjoy outdoor activities. They also get to spend time with their three children, 10 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild in Arizona. E-mail: golferfrank@att.net

James F. Atkinson '63 retired from It's a Gas LLC/Marketing Management and lives in Ballwin, Mo. He urges brothers to "take pledge risks and bust butt!" E-mail: jfkatkinson@hotmail.com

David R. Parman '63 travels with his wife, Marana, frequently. They went to Switzerland in 2011, Scandinavia in 2012, Indochina in 2013,

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Alumni Update

(Continued from page 3)

and India and South Africa in 2014. They go bone fishing each year in the Bahamas. They have a winter home in Nevada and a summer home in Oregon.

Robert A. Hipskind '64 and his wife, Carol, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 2014. He is in the final stages of starting production of his U.S. patent and is having fun working with his son, Michael, at Multi-Coatings. Robert lives in Rock Hill, S.C. E-mail: bhip@comporium.net

Gary N. Bolen '65 lives in Nashville, Tenn., most of the time. He has a home in Pont Charlotte, Fla., where he plans to retire.

Gary L. Evans '67 is a treasurer for the Purdue Alumni Club in Sarasota, Fla. E-mail: garylevans@aol.com

Charles R. Deible '68 has been married to Stephanie Funcheon since 2003. She joined him in retirement from her position as an art teacher at Lafayette Jefferson High School. They both had children in previous marriages; Stephanie has one daughter and two granddaughters, and Charles has two daughters, three granddaughters, and two grandsons. Charles lives in Lafayette, Ind., and visits his daughters and their families in Fort Wayne and Valpo. Although his golf game has suffered with age, he still has a good time playing. "I still cherish all of the great times and memories from my SigEp years." E-mail: charlie.deible@frontier.com

August G. Voelkel '68 received the outstanding Eagle Scout award from the National Eagle Scout Association. This award recognizes Eagle Scouts who have brought great honor to the highest rank of the Boy Scouts of America through their professional contributions at the local, state, and regional level. He is also a Silver Beaver recipient. August is one of the founding physicians for the cardiac program in Contra Costa County in the East Bay of San Francisco. He lives in Walnut Creek, Calif.

Mark D. Schmitz '70 celebrated his 45th anniversary with his SigEp sweetheart, Diana. He is semi-retired and splits time between Park City, Utah, and La Quinta, Calif. E-mail: drauto@aol.com

Ralph M. Holmes '72 is retired and has homes in Arizona and Washington. He is looking at homes in Portland, Ore., to be closer to his kids and three grandkids. "We are snow birds—six months in Arizona and six months in Pacific Northwest." E-mail: rmike050@yahoo.com

Marc P. George '74 is a global sales executive for an R.R. Donnelley company in Seattle, Wash.

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Sigma Phi Epsilon-Indiana Alpha

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He and his wife, Christine, have been married for 24 years and have two sons, Simon (20) and John (17), who are both Eagle Scouts and full-time Frisbee players. E-mail: marcg@emeraldgcg.com

C. Michael Gillam '77, his wife, Beverly, and their four children moved from Los Angeles to Sacramento in September 2013. Michael is working on the California high-speed rail project. E-mail: heymikey12@fastmail.com

Don R. Schlegelmilch '78 gets season tickets for Purdue football each year and tailgates on the second hole fairway on the south golf course. His spare time is spent outdoors, skiing, and on the beach. Don lives in Galveston, Ind. E-mail: dschleg@sycamoreweb.com

Eric Fry '00 and his wife, Sarah, moved back to Denver, Colo., in August. They celebrated the birth of their first child in October 2014. E-mail: efry690@hotmail.com

Andrew D. Kersten, M.D. '03 is finishing his sports medicine fellowship in San Diego, Calif., and will move to Asheville, N.C., with his family to start his orthopedic surgery practice with Southwestern Sports Medicine. E-mail: a_kersten@hotmail.com

Brian T. Gordon '06 and his wife, Allyson, welcomed their daughter, Quinn McKeighan, last April. They live in Russiaville, Ind. E-mail: btg-purdue@yahoo.com

Upcoming Alumni Events

State of the Chapter

On Saturday, **June 13**, we will have our Second Annual State of the Chapter alumni event at the house. We will have a cookout and a relaxing day of sharing stories of our times at 690. Then we will go into the state of the chapter. Visit <http://www.purduesigeps.com/events/state-of-the-chapter> for more information and to RSVP.

2015 Annual Golf Outing and Homecoming

Join us for the golf outing on Friday, **November 6**, and a cookout at the house after golfing. On Saturday, **November 7**, stop by the house to catch up with old friends. We will have a cookout going on all day. Stay tuned for updates on www.purduesigeps.com and our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/SigEpIndianaAlpha.