

FROM THE HEART

A PUBLICATION FOR ALUMNI OF INDIANA ALPHA ♦ SIGMA PHI EPSILON ♦ SPRING 2018

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Back row, from left: Vic Mattison, Missouri Alpha '87, Mike Neary, Illinois Epsilon '90, and Tommy Caruso, Illinois Epsilon '90. Front row: Brian Rodell '98, Mitch Salyers '93, Michael Ellis '84, and Mike's sister, Janet Ellis Hunzinger, Purdue '83.



ALUMNI ATTEND 2018 CARLSON LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

National Programming to Benefit Indiana Alpha's Return in 2020

This year at the Carlson Leadership Conference, Indiana Alpha AVC members **Brian Rodell '98**, **Michael Ellis '84**, and **Mitch Salyers '93** represented the fraternity to learn more about the future of Sigma Phi Epsilon and its programming. We were well received by the national representatives and discussed the relaunch of our chapter that is scheduled for fall 2020. Members of the national recruitment team will be on campus to recruit new members and build the excitement for the leadership opportunities that exist in the fraternity programming. The focus of the weekend was the conversion of the fraternities to the substance-free lifestyle SigEp will enforce in the coming years. The success of this type of lifestyle is well documented and will help station SigEp at the top of the Greek system at Purdue.

The highlight of Saturday evening was the recognition of our very own **Michael Ellis '84** as he was honored with the Exemplary Service Award and served as the keynote speaker. He spent time recognizing those from the fraternity who had an impact on his life and who supported his efforts to lead the mission of the fraternity. He offered a speech to the undergraduates on the impact of Sigma Phi Epsilon on his life and why he gives back.

Mike was surrounded by his dearest friends and his sister during this great event. This was an honor for Mike and, through him, every member could see the importance of this lifetime commitment. As such, we are excited to feature more of his story in this issue's alumni spotlight on page 3.

AVC's Spring Goals Focus on Digital Communication

As I reflect on my experiences from this year's Carlson Leadership Academy in Chicago, Illinois, I am reminded of the valuable assets that the national fraternity shares with its chapters in the form of organized leadership training, operational experience, and knowledge-sharing, as well as ongoing supplemental support for undergraduates and alumni volunteers. This is important to mention because as we continue to plan out our return to campus in 2020, it will be critical to build on top of this foundation and utilize these assets to create a culture with programming

that exceeds the expectations of today's young men and allows us to help shape what the fraternity experience of tomorrow looks like.

In the coming days, weeks, and months you will hear words that may sound foreign to you, like Balanced Man Program or Residential Learning Communities, or ideals that you find difficult to accept, like substance-free facilities, because it does not align with the experience that you had

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AVC's Spring Goals

(Continued from page 1)



AVC V.P. of Alumni Relations Mitch Salyers '93 with Carlson Leadership Conference keynote speaker and AVC Secretary Michael Ellis '84.

AVC President Brian Rodell '98 tests out the podium at Carlson.

and look back upon fondly. To that, I can only submit that change doesn't have to represent a departure from past policies, experiences, or results, but rather can represent our commitment to being brave enough to stand on the shoulders of those who came and succeeded before us to create something that was supposed to be better than the way it was left.

Your AVC understands that it is our responsibility to arm you with the information necessary to make these changes along with us. This spring we plan to roll out two important tools to accomplish this objective:

1. A retooled website that will provide you with all the information you need to educate yourself on the current fraternity climate, the assets that Sigma Phi Epsilon has, and the culture that will be established when we open the red doors to 690 Waldron once again.
2. Robust e-mail capabilities that will allow us to be more nimble with real-time updates on the life of your fraternity, as well as to supplement some of our existing social media and newsletter capabilities for providing you with current plans and updates.

In closing, I am very pleased with our current progress and am excited about the potential that lies ahead, and I hope you are too. There is much work to be done and I am confident that we have the right people in place and an alumni base that will support us along the way!



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

\$6,315 COMMITTED BY 43 BROTHERS LAST FALL

Your Donations Fuel Newsletters and Alumni Programming

Thanks to the support of 43 generous alumni, more than \$6,000 was contributed in response to our fall appeal. Eight of those donations came from first-time donors! Thank you! Your continued support helps ensure the future of Indiana Alpha through alumni engagement. If an error has been made in recording your gift, we sincerely apologize. If corrections to your giving records are needed, please send them to alehr@penningtonco.com.

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Michael Ellis '84 accepts his Exemplary Service Award at the 2018 Carlson Leadership Conference. Mike served as the keynote speaker for the event.



Michael Ellis '84 with Brothers Jim Quinn '74 and Jim Bosche '83 at Harlem's famous Red Rooster restaurant.

SIGEP HONORS MICHAEL ELLIS '84 WITH THE EXEMPLARY SERVICE AWARD

“Everyone loves Mike Ellis. He is the most unselfish volunteer that a fraternity could have.”

The opening remarks by **Tom Barton, Iowa Eta '89**, at the 2018 Carlson Leadership Academy demonstrate precisely why **Michael Ellis '84** received the Exemplary Service Award for his 34 years of dedication to Sigma Phi Epsilon. Only five volunteers receive this award each year, and Indiana Alpha is proud of Brother Ellis and grateful for his loyalty.

It is clear that Mike also loves SigEp. Although he says the decision to join Indiana Alpha didn't involve a lot of reasoning, the brotherhood that developed over the years has proven to be worth the gamble. Earning a degree in computer and electrical engineering, Mike was involved in the chapter as song chairman and eventually president; this was after he ran for an executive board position but lost. In fact, Mike says being elected chapter president is one of his favorite memories, as well as “the most drastic, life-altering thing I ever experienced.”

His days as an undergraduate were spent with men who would become best friends for life. “There is no stronger bond of friendship than those made under the ties of fraternal love.” He especially recalls the feeling of support from his brothers when his grandfather passed away. And they were always there to discuss and debate important topics. Mike loved to argue with **Pete Peregrine '85** about the merits of particular rock music and with **Steve Lindquist '86** about the philosophies behind the fraternity system.

Mike started his career in manufacturing engineering then moved into IBM sales, “where I got the best training available in the world. That gave me the foundation to start my own business.” A defining moment came when “I made my annual quota by October, and the decision was made to double my quota, which I did not achieve by year-end. That taught me to never be under someone else's sale projections again.” In 1988, Mike founded a business that operated large-scale implementations in global manufacturing companies.

His service to the fraternity as an alumnus began immediately after graduation, and roles have included advisor, board member and officer, and facilitator. He was District Governor, Illinois, and an early pioneer

of the Balanced Man Program. He was also chairman of the National Technology Task Force, advancing the virtual AVC concept, as well as the Distance Mentoring movement. Not only does he devote his time, but he also shares his diverse skills with the fraternity. He authored the SigEp component of the Quest to Greece curriculum and has been a member and soloist of the Conclave Chorus since 1981.

This is but a short list of the innumerable ways Mike has made SigEp a better fraternity. His friend and business partner, **Vic Mattison, Missouri Alpha '87**, also spoke at the awards dinner. “Mike epitomizes SigEp's Cardinal Principles and represents SigEp's Balanced Man. SigEp courses through Mike's veins.” A true and genuine volunteer, he doesn't do all this for the recognition. To paraphrase the 2018 award recipients announcement, the honorees love SigEp and believe in the fraternity's ability to bring out the best in young men.

Mike is grateful for the honor, saying, “Doing the work every day seems like the most normal thing to do, never expecting this kind of tremendous recognition.” The most gratifying part has been receiving congratulatory messages from people he hasn't heard from in many years. Mike encourages all brothers to make time each month to give back to SigEp undergraduates, at Purdue or elsewhere. “The world desperately needs balanced leaders—perhaps now more than ever. You can make a huge difference in the lives of young men, in the same way you benefited from the older members at Indiana Alpha.”

After years of professional success by morphing his company each time drastic changes happened in the industry, Mike retired in June 2017 and now travels worldwide as a technology consultant. An accomplished amateur chef, he is contemplating starting a private chef business. In his spare time, he does programming in Google Apps Script. As Tom Barton said, “Mike doesn't know how to quit.”

You can watch the presentation of Mike's award and his speech at www.youtube.com/watch?v=ASSixNBQ000. He can be reached via e-mail at michael.ellis@isiinternet.com.

FROM THE HEART

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SAVE THE DATES: SEPTEMBER 21-22

Homecoming Weekend Planning Underway

Our second annual Homecoming dinner will be held Friday, September 21, at Mountain Jack's Steakhouse. We will gather, dine, and reminisce the times at 690 Waldron. Dinner will be provided and a cash bar will be available.

Join us for breakfast the following morning in the Anniversary Drawing Room at the Purdue Memorial Union. There, we will gather for the annual board meeting, vote for the new AVC board, and discuss plans for the future of SigEp. Tailgating will follow in preparation of the Sesquicentennial Homecoming of Purdue University. Purdue will take on Boston College's Eagles for the feature event.

*Details for RSVPs will be provided
later this summer.*

Sigma Phi Epsilon-Indiana Alpha

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ALUMNI NEWS

CHAPTER ETERNAL

Don R. Schlegelmilch '78 passed away on November 3, 2017. For several years, Don worked as a financial advisor for Sycamore Financial in Kokomo. Surviving are his wife, Karen; daughter, Kelsey Stephens, and sons, Evan and Braden; and his grandson, J.J. Robert.

Michael J. Hoevet '91 passed away on October 4, 2017, from cancer. He worked as a sales representative for Eli Lilly Pharmaceuticals for 17 years, achieving senior executive status as one of the top performers in the country. He is survived by his wife of nearly 27 years, Jo; two daughters, Katie Kerr and Mallory; his parents, Clayton and Dorothy; his sister, Sue; and brother, Ed. "He valued the connections he made and maintained with his SigEp brothers so much," says Jo.

ALUMNI UPDATES

William R. Redlich '42 is 95 and lives in Evanston, Ill. After graduating in 1942, Bill immediately went into active duty in Army Air Corps. He flew 35 missions over Japan. E-mail: wmredlich@gmail.com

David B. Meinhardt '54 retired in 2002 as president of Stanford Computer Optics. He is doing well, still flies (a Grumman American Tiger), and hasn't given up on skiing. He and his wife, Erika, live in Palo Alto, Calif., and have

one daughter, Stefanie. He'd love to hear from brothers. E-mail: davidmeinhardt@sbcglobal.net

Frank L. Wellwerts '61 is the retired executive vice president of Baxter & Woodman Inc. He and his wife, Jeanne, have four children, Rence, Gregory, Valerie, and Michael, 11 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. They have permanently relocated to Chandler, Ariz., and would love to hear from brothers in the area. E-mail: golferfrank@att.net

Michael R. Perkins '66 and his wife, Marcia, live in Dayton, Ohio, and have three children: Shannon, Stacy, and Leigh. Michael retired in 2006. He says he enjoyed the reunion in fall 2017 and seeing brothers for the first time since graduation, as well as "remembering almost 20 (guys) traveling to Arkansas for our wedding in 1966 over semester break." E-mail: purdueperk@yahoo.com

John R. Treat '66 "partially" retired in 2009 and "mostly" retired in 2017 as an attorney; he still does limited work with FCA/Chrysler. He and his wife, Ann, have been married for 45 years and live on Lake Bracken near Galesburg, Ill. They have one son, Scott, and three grandchildren. He says, "Ann and I greatly enjoyed attending our recent class of 1966 reunion and seeing many brothers and spouses. Hope to do it again in a few years." E-mail: jrtreat@aol.com

Douglas M. Nabhan '77 and his wife, Lou Anne, have been married nearly 40 years. They live in Richmond, Va., and have a second home on the Chesapeake Bay. Douglas is a senior partner with Williams Mullen, and most of his work is based out of Italy. He also serves as general counsel for SigEp—the longest service general counsel in the fraternity's history. E-mail: dnabhan@williamsmullen.com

Terry M. Hart '87 is vice president of manufacturing for Ardagh Group. He and his wife, Angie (nee Ditzenberger), live in Fishers, Ind., and have three children: Ashley, Amanda, and Collin. E-mail: thart53542@aol.com

Mark W. Lawson '96 is associate director, operations quality plasma OPU with Shire Pharmaceuticals. He and his wife, Christie, have two daughters, Tara and Jodi, and reside in Mundelein, Ill. E-mail: lawson1892@gmail.com

Patrick L. Sheets '01 is an assistant professor at Indiana University School of Medicine and runs a laboratory studying brain circuits altered by chronic pain. He and his wife, Jennifer, live in Indianapolis and have two sons, Abram and William. The family tries to attend or watch Boiler sports whenever they can. E-mail: sheets2087@gmail.com