

# FROM THE HEART

A PUBLICATION FOR ALUMNI OF INDIANA ALPHA ♦ SIGMA PHI EPSILON ♦ SPRING 2025

PURDUESIGEP.ORG



*The executive board with the Member Development and Communications Awards at Carlson Leadership Academy.*



## Achieving Greatness

### REFLECTING ON MY TERM, LOOKING FOR A SUCCESSOR

It has been my great honor to serve as your alumni and volunteer corporation board president for the last six years. **Brian Rodell '98** left me equipped with a supremely qualified board with talents that handled construction and repairs, financial operations and future planning, fundraising, alumni relations, and most importantly, a mentoring board serving the undergraduates. During these six years, we accomplished some amazing things. We started the new colony and figured out how to recruit new members during COVID, with no house to help promote our fraternity. We found a sorority to rent our chapter house, which kept us financially viable until we could fill our house again with our own young men.

We took over occupancy of the house and adjusted our reconstruction plan to do it progressively so that our young men in the new colony could occupy the house themselves. We started the renovations and progressed floor by floor, occasionally finding new things that were surprises and sometimes encountering sudden repairs in our 105-year-old house.

Recently, we received our charter. Indiana Alpha is back, living at 690 Waldron, and building a new reputation on campus with the university, sororities, and the campus at large.

The time has come for me to pass the reins on to a new volunteer. I'm still looking for someone willing to step up, but my time will necessarily come to an end at Homecoming in October. I'm leaving my successor with a tremendous series of successes and several goals left to achieve. I thank everyone who has served with me on this board. I give you all the credit for what has been done. We have built a new foundation for Indiana Alpha, and I'm so proud to have been a part of it alongside all of you.

If you are reading this and think you could volunteer in some capacity, please reach out to me and I will help match your talents and availability to our chapter's needs at this time. Once more, I thank you for the opportunity to have served my beloved SigEp at Purdue.

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



## ENSURING THE FUTURE OF INDIANA ALPHA

### *A Continued Need for Support*

We would again like to thank all of you for your support of *The Campaign for Indiana Alpha—A New Beginning*. The original campaign estimate was \$1.5 million. We set a goal of \$1.75 million and a stretch goal of \$2 million. We closed the campaign at the end of 2024 with total contributions of \$2.1 million. Even though the campaign has ended, we continue to receive donations.

The impact of the capital campaign cannot be overstated. It has helped fund the renovation as well as provided us with the collateral to secure a mortgage to ensure that all our renovation objectives will be met. Our renovation team and Larson Danielson Construction, **Tim Larson '77**, and **Terry Larson '80** have done a fantastic job. In fact, the house renovation will be completed a full year early when the brothers return in the fall of this year.

It's also important to highlight the successes of the chapter. Most significant was the Chartering Ceremony on March 28, attended by many alumni, AVC board members, and SigEp National leadership. Renewing the Indiana Alpha charter in every way is a validation of the commitment and great work that has been accomplished by the new brothers, alumni, and SigEp National resources. As we enter the fall, we will have 57 brothers. We continue to be the top Greek organization in terms of GPA. As our numbers increase, so does our social engagement, participation in campus athletics, and our involvement in campus organizations. Indiana Alpha has received high marks from the dean of students for "doing it the right way." In every respect, SigEp is back at Purdue University.

With so much that has been accomplished, we need to plan for the future. To ensure the legacy of Indiana Alpha, it will take ongoing support, both financial and through the involvement of our alumni. We now transition from the capital campaign and emphasize the importance of annual giving and legacy giving to support the long-term needs of the chapter. We would like to recognize the many alumni who have donated \$100, \$500, or \$1,000 to the chapter on an annual basis. Our goal is to improve the structure, awareness, and recognition of our annual giving and legacy giving programs.

*(Continued on page 2)*





# ENSURING THE FUTURE OF INDIANA ALPHA

(Continued from page 1)

## How You Can Help

While the current brothers' house bill supports the basic operations of the fraternity and secures a small portion to build a capital fund, the fraternity has many needs. Funding scholarships is an important way to support our brothers and an effective tool in brother recruitment.

There are important growth opportunities for the brothers in the form of the Ruck Leadership Institute, Carlson Leadership Academy, and the Grand Chapter Conclave. Funds are needed to support our brothers attending these programs, which provide them with outstanding learning and development opportunities. These events also provide us with the opportunity to highlight the success of Indiana Alpha.

Finally, the reality is that the fraternity will have ongoing capital needs and operating improvements that cannot be fully supported by annual house fees. For all these reasons, it's critical that we build a comprehensive annual giving and legacy giving program to support the chapter's long-term requirements.

At this point, we would like you to consider how you can ensure the legacy of Indiana Alpha. In the coming months, we will be providing a solicitation outlining the annual giving and legacy giving programs.

## Thank you again for your ongoing support.

Faternally,  
**Jim Mosch '80**  
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Honorary Campaign Chairman  
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# Congratulations to Our Scholarship Recipients

## RECOGNIZING BROTHERS DEDICATED TO SIGEP AND BEYOND

### RUSSELL MATHEWS '27

#### \$500 Member of the Year

*Recognized for his contributions to Indiana Alpha Chapter in the areas of academics, recruitment, brother development, and overall chapter improvement.*

Within SigEp, Russell has taken the lead in programming events, recruitment activities, and house management, consistently enhancing chapter operations. Outside of SigEp, he has distinguished himself as a video systems engineer for Purdue Athletics, director of broadcast operations for RDL Audio/Visual, and a swim coach and tech services supervisor for Alligator Aquatics. Driven by pride and passion for SigEp, Russell dedicates his time and energy to making a meaningful impact.

### JOSHUA MANSKY '26

#### \$500 Sound Mind Award

*Recognized for his contributions to Indiana Alpha's pursuit to implement Sound Mind principles as one of the critical focus areas of the Balanced Man Program.*

As sound body chairman, standards board member, and vice president of operations, Joshua has fostered a culture of growth and accountability within SigEp. Beyond the chapter, he serves as president of Boiler Robotics and project manager for the Drone Delivery Team of the Autonomous Robotics Club, while also excelling as a software engineering intern and research intern. His commitment to mental development, leadership, and innovation embodies the principles of this award.

### JONATHYN HERRO '27

#### \$500 Sound Body Award

*Recognized for his contributions to Indiana Alpha's pursuit to implement Sound Body principles as one of the critical focus areas of the Balanced Man Program.*

As chaplain, he upholds the fraternity's high standards and coherence, organizing programs like Agora and managing chapter responsibilities. Outside of SigEp, Jonathyn is a personal trainer, practices Brazilian jiu-jitsu, and participates in outdoor activities. His rigorous workout regimen and dedication to tracking nutrition have resulted in impressive personal milestones, demonstrating his unwavering commitment to the principles of sound body.

### ALEXANDER DERBYSHIRE '25

#### \$200 Senior Contribution Award

*Recognized for his contributions as a senior and leader to Indiana Alpha in the areas of academics, recruitment, brother development, and overall chapter improvement.*

Serving as president, VP of operations, standards board member, and recruitment chairman, Alexander has spearheaded initiatives such as securing house live-ins, navigating room selections, and fostering a recruitment-focused culture. His professional experience includes internships with Starbucks, McDonald's, and Sharecare, among others, alongside campus leadership roles in the Residence Hall Association and Boiler Gold Rush. Alexander's dedication to mentoring and supporting his brothers reflects his commitment to SigEp's continued success.

### BENJAMIN MALIK '28

#### \$150 Outstanding New Member

*Recognized for his contributions as a new member to Indiana Alpha in the areas of academics, recruitment, brother development, and overall chapter improvement.*

As an active and engaged member, Benjamin has been instrumental in recruiting new brothers, fostering strong connections within the chapter, and strengthening social bonds. Outside of SigEp, he contributes to the Assistive Technology Team in the Engineering Projects in Community Living Learning Community and maintains a disciplined fitness routine. His commitment to embodying the traits of a balanced man—physically, socially, and academically—makes him a standout among his peers.

### JOSEPH URBAN '28

#### Outstanding New Member

Joseph Urban has been awarded Outstanding New Member for his vision and impactful contributions to Indiana Alpha. Through activities like designing basketball jerseys and participating in volleyball, Joseph has strengthened connections within the chapter and his new member class. Beyond SigEp, he brings creativity and technical skills as a member of the Purdue Aerial Robotics Team and Jazz Band. Joseph's belief in fostering a fraternity that blends traditional social values with a culture of excellence exemplifies his leadership and dedication to SigEp's mission.



# Support Indiana Alpha Scholarships



FROM THE HEART

## A Strong Presence at Purdue Academic and Philanthropic Success

Indiana Alpha Chapter has had an outstanding spring semester, and I'm excited to bring you up to speed on all we've accomplished. We welcomed 13 new members into our brotherhood this spring. These new men are already integrating into chapter life, volunteering on campus, and embodying SigEp's core values of Virtue, Diligence, and Brotherly Love.

Academically, our chapter remains second to none. We once again achieved the highest cumulative GPA in the Interfraternity Council. This success reflects not only the individual dedication of our brothers but also the supportive study environment we foster—regular study groups, peer mentorship, and accountability partners who keep each other on track throughout the term.

Philanthropy was front and center this spring. Our first dedicated Philanthropy Week raised over \$2,000 for the JED Foundation. Brothers organized tabling events, small fundraisers around campus, and large events at the house to support JED's vital work in mental health awareness and suicide prevention.

We also strengthened our campus presence by hosting a joint philanthropy event with Kappa Kappa Gamma. Working alongside the sisters, we raised additional funds and increased awareness for community needs while building new friendships and enhancing our chapter's reputation for positive collaboration across Greek life.

This semester marked the debut of our first Mom's Day, where mothers of our undergraduate members were invited to the chapter house for an afternoon of fellowship. Attendees enjoyed refreshments, met their son's chapter brothers, and got a firsthand look at the home away from home we've created on Waldron Street. During Grand Prix weekend, Indiana Alpha hosted two social functions designed to showcase our chapter's spirit and hospitality.

At the FSCL Awards Banquet, we were honored with the Laurie Roselle Catalyst Award, which recognizes our chapter for precipitating positive change through courage and careful planning, without seeking recognition in return. Our name will be engraved in the FSCL office alongside the legacy of Laurie Roselle, a testament to the standard of excellence we strive to uphold in every aspect of chapter life.

Finally, we capped the semester with our Charter Banquet in the Purdue Memorial Ballrooms. More than 100 alumni, undergraduates, and chapter advisors gathered for a formal dinner, remarks from chapter leadership, and a special tribute to those who helped reignite Indiana Alpha. It was a wonderful evening of celebration and reflection—an occasion that cements how far we've come and the bright future ahead.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support, encouragement, and generosity. Whether you've mentored a new member, shared your career insights, or contributed to our philanthropic efforts, your involvement makes a real difference. Here's to a restful summer and returning stronger than ever this fall!

Fraternally,  
**Parker Smith '26**  
President  
smit4623@purdue.edu



*Brothers at the charter banquet.*

Funding our academic and leadership scholarships comes from an endowment fund with the National Fraternity. If you are interested in donating to ensure scholarships like these can continue, give online via our page on the National Fraternity's website.



- Visit [sigep.org/indianaalpha](http://sigep.org/indianaalpha)
- Select "Indiana Alpha Leadership Fund."
- Enter "Restricted Scholarship" in the comments section.

## Recent Research Reinforces THE IMPORTANCE OF GREEK-LETTER ORGANIZATIONS

A recent study found that fraternity and sorority members were more likely to succeed in college and beyond than their non-Greek peers. They are three times more likely to obtain an internship while in college and two times more likely to have a job waiting for them when they graduate. Students spend 90% of their time outside the classroom. SigEp and other Greek-letter organizations capitalize on those hours by preparing men for success in college and in their futures far beyond what their peers experience. 83% of members say their confidence in their leadership skills increased because of their membership. A study of thousands of alumni of diverse backgrounds shows this holds true regardless of an individual's background or socioeconomic status entering college.

Behind every great organization is a group of valuable volunteers. Because of higher expectations, as well as the support and network fraternities provide, members experience greater gains in learning and graduate at higher rates than their peers. Volunteers and alumni are that support, and SigEp could truly not do this incredible work without that support.

### INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING WITH SIGEP?

Learn more about SigEp's volunteer opportunities at [sigep.org/resources/alumni-and-volunteers](http://sigep.org/resources/alumni-and-volunteers).



# INDIANA ALPHA INVITES YOU TO CONCLAVE

Join Us in  
Tampa Bay!



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Every other year, over 1,000 SigEp brothers gather to relive the college experience that shaped us—lifelong friendships, leadership opportunities, and the Virtue, Diligence, and Brotherly Love that guide us. This summer, Indiana Alpha invites you to join us at the 59th Grand Chapter Conclave in Tampa Bay to celebrate those memories and create new ones. With Rise as the theme of this Conclave, we celebrate the upward movement of our brotherhood and our shared aspiration of reclaiming SigEp's title of the largest and best fraternity on every campus where we plant our flag.

Don't miss this opportunity to reconnect with old friends, experience the strength of SigEp today, and rediscover why our brotherhood lasts a lifetime. **Register now and represent Indiana Alpha in Tampa Bay!**

**When: July 23-27, 2025**

**Where: Water Street**

**Marriotts, Tampa Bay, Fla.**

**Register at [sigep.org/conclave](http://sigep.org/conclave)**

## SHARING THE BROTHERHOOD—WITH BROTHERS!

When **John Andrews '79** was a high school senior, he was able to visit his older brother, **Dave '79**, at the chapter house. "Everyone treated me like a part of the house ever since—so when I officially joined SigEp, it felt like home," John said. "That feeling hasn't changed in 50 years."

Dave and John's younger brother, **Tom '86**, had visited them at the house since he was 10. He didn't lean heavily on that in his own recruitment, though, visiting multiple fraternities with his dorm roommates.

"I quickly realized this was the place for me based on the guys we met and the overall experience and tradition; no question about it," Tom said. "On my initiation night, Dave surprised me at the end of the ceremony and personally delivered me his SigEp pin." (Tom even met his wife of 35 years, Francesca, at an Alpha Phi/SigEp philanthropy event!)

The Andrews brothers were always close growing up, and Indiana Alpha became another positive shared experience. All three pledged with a quality group of men, enjoying the SigEp camaraderie as they struggled through tough times and massive life changes together.

As chapter president, for example, Tom led over 80 undergraduates during his junior year. "Whether it was negotiating with the Dean of Students, speaking at campus events, or just keeping the peace, I learned management and collaboration skills early on that provided me a head start in my career."

"SigEp is an additional bond we all have, and we share friendships with many brothers from those days," John said.

To this day, the brothers enjoy maintaining those bonds wherever possible. Tom frequents local gatherings in the Chicago area, and John enjoys catching up with brothers at alumni golf outings. "It's great to see the brothers again, swap old stories, and hear about their careers and kids (and grandkids now)," John added.

Purdue and SigEp have remained constants in their lives. John's son, though not a SigEp, is a junior at Purdue, stretching their family ties into the next generation.

"I'm thankful for my SigEp experience and getting to know so many quality brothers," Tom said. "Watching them grow, raise their families, and excel in their careers—things we often joked about in the mid-'80s, and here we are now!"

### Catching Up with the Andrews Family



From left: Tom, John, and Dave.

### Want to Connect? Email Us!

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