

FROM THE HEART

A PUBLICATION FOR ALUMNI OF INDIANA ALPHA ♦ SIGMA PHI EPSILON ♦ WINTER 2016

WWW.PURDUE-SIGEPS.COM



COLD AIR DORM IN NEED OF UPDATES

We Need Your Help!

Brothers, we all have fond memories of sleeping in the cold air dorm. It is definitely a unique experience and part of the SigEp lore. I actually just slept up there at Homecoming, and it's still great! We have been working hard to rehabilitate the house, but the biggest need has been saved for last. Both materially and as a matter of safety, the cold air dorm needs a major overhaul before this fall.

The undergraduates have not used the cold air dorm for the last few years because of limited numbers in the house. Next year, we are expecting a nearly full house and will need to begin using it again. This is going to be an adjustment for them, but we know they will love it. We have purchased all new bunk beds, but there are safety and cosmetic concerns we need to take care of before we can get members back up there. **Bruce Cole '82** and **Keith Baker '75** have been planning the rehabilitation of the dorm for a few months and are now ready to begin work. The problem, like most often, is funding. We are definitely on our way back as a strong brotherhood, but we are still short on money to fix all the issues in our 100-year-old house.

Some of the areas we need to address are: all new wall paneling, ceilings, flooring, insulation in the walls to reduce energy cost, and perhaps most important, update the electrical outlets and windows. In total, they expect to need an outlay of about \$50,000. Bruce and Keith, along with other alumni and brothers, are going to do as much of the work as we can to lower this estimate, but we are asking for a monetary donation from you, the alumni of 690 Waldron, to make this a reality. If you visit, there can be a rack and electric blanket memorial with your name on it!

If you feel like this is something you can help us with, please send a donation to Sigma Phi Epsilon, 1075 Broad Ripple Ave., Suite 302, Indianapolis, IN 46220. Checks may be payable to SigEp Alumni Corp. (non-tax deductible), memo: cold air dorm.

Fraternally,

Jay Bilunas '99

Alumni Volunteer Corporation President
avc-president@purdue-sigeps.com



*The cold air dorms need to be updated!
Please consider giving back today.*



HOW TO MAKE AN IMPACT TODAY

Indiana Alpha currently has two efforts that need the most attention: the Balanced Man Scholarship fund and the cold air dorm project. Your generosity will go a long way in improving both our house and programming. We appreciate your support!

Housing (non-tax deductible)

Make checks payable to Sigma Phi Epsilon Alumni Corporation (memo: cold air dorm) Send donations to Indiana Alpha Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon, 1075 Broad Ripple Ave., Suite 302, Indianapolis, IN 46220

Education (tax deductible)

Make checks payable to Sigma Phi Epsilon (memo: Indiana Alpha – Nabhan Fund donation) Send donations to Sigma Phi Epsilon, 310 S. Boulevard, Richmond, VA 23220

Or give online today at sigep.org by clicking on “Give to SigEp.” Be sure to select “Indiana Alpha – Nabhan Endowment” from the menu.

Indiana Alpha Overcomes Difficult Challenges Brian Todd '97 Explains from a Financial Standpoint

As most of you know by now, the past two years have been some of the worst in our history. You have likely heard about numbers so low that we should have closed our doors. You may have heard about malicious damage or poor morale. But, few of you likely know the issues behind the scene—deferred house maintenance, lack of emergency reserves, and a budget that did not allow for improvements to either. The AVC and the great young men of the chapter have done a tremendous job of turning the chapter around from a manpower and development standpoint. Now, we must turn to the finances.



It has been my goal, and that of this board, in the past two years to make permanent changes that will allow us to be more proactive with house projects and maintenance so we can weather storms and remain competitive on campus. We were lucky to have our national organization cover the shortfall, but that cannot be our answer in the future. We currently have nine funds held at nationals, all of which are used for different things. There are two that we will be addressing now and in the near future: the Balanced Man fund and the housing fund.

(Continued on page 4)

*SigEp alumni and undergraduate*

HOMECOMING WEEKEND A SUCCESS

We had a great Homecoming weekend last fall, with all things considered. With the fraternity still on probation and the quality of Purdue's football team, we have tended to see lower turnout for Homecoming. Neither of those seemed to have an effect this year. While it could have been due to the fact we were coming off a win against Nebraska the week before, or just a strong desire to return to the place we call home, we had a great turnout.

Thank you to those who helped put the weekend together and made it a success: **Keith Baker '75**, who basically ran the cookout, **David Huhnke '83**, who helped to set up the kitchen area and communicated with the chef, and Karen Wilczewski, who interviewed alumni and wrote the feature shared here.



Thank You, Brothers, for Giving Back to Indiana Alpha

Thanks to the support of 67 generous alumni, \$16,345 was contributed through our spring 2015 appeal. The accomplishments and success enjoyed by Indiana Alpha are directly attributed to the ongoing and loyal support from the chapter's alumni relations efforts. Your gifts help the men of Indiana Alpha not only today but well into the future! If an error has been made in recording the amount of your gift, we sincerely apologize. If corrections to your giving records are needed, please send them to alehr@penningtonco.com. Thank you, again, for your loyal support.

Founder's Society **(\$5,000 and above)**

James G. Mosch '79

Balanced Man Society **(\$1,000 to \$2,499)**

John C. Weydert '48
Andrew G. Forrest '52
Frank E. Ruehling '56
Robert F. Kroeger '58
David E. Hetrick '89
Mark S. Meyer '92
Matthew R. Foster '94

James M. Anderson '95

Brotherhood Society **(\$500 to \$999)**

Robert A. Von Behren '43
Harold Shevers Jr. '57
Frank R. Snyder '58
David S. McMichael '59
Bill M. Reid '60
James H. Muehlbauer '63
Byron H. White '64
John L. Knochel '65
John K. Oelslager '66

John R. Treat '66
Ronald L. Downing '68
August G. Voelkel '68
Wendell D. Schultz '68
James S. Keller '69
James M. Cassell '73
James M. Lindsey,
D.D.S. '74
Fred H. Beckman '82
Bradley S. Vice '85
Eric D. Dodd '91

Golden Heart Society **(\$100 to \$499)**

Donald F. Smith '48
Edward R. Hyde '49
John C. Adams '54
Robert C. Foster '54
Donald T. Belbutowski '55
William V. Dohr '59
Robert T. Thorson '61
Larry R. Horton '62
Lawrence K. Volland '63
Kenneth A. Campbell '64
Andrew R. Ceperley '65

Gilbert J. Frey '66
Kenneth G. Miller '66
Michael R. Perkins '66
E. Dana Smith '66
Gary L. Evans '67
Patrick J. Woodring '69
Louis B. Astbury '72
Gregory B. Foust '72
Charles R. Reeves '73
Edward G. Gehlhausen '74
Dennis C. Lange '74
Mark W. Haberstroh '75
Mark C. Johnson '75



...s enjoyed Homecoming weekend.



ALUMNI SHARE INDIANA ALPHA MEMORIES AT HOMECOMING

Saturday, November 7, 2015, was a crisp 47-degree day in West Lafayette. Alumni dropped by SigEp to reminisce, peruse photographs from their days at the house, enjoy some casual food on the veranda, and cheer on the Boilermakers against the Fighting Illini.

Gregg Hague '82, nicknamed “Torch,” served as SigEp’s controller from 1980-82. He studied industrial engineering and recalls sharing the house with 97 brothers in 1981 and spending relaxing Friday afternoons on the veranda. Traveling from Chicago to participate in Homecoming, Gregg commented that he likes the improvements that have been made to the house since he graduated.

If prizes were to be given out for traveling the farthest to Homecoming 2015, **Mike Ellis '84** would win. He traveled from Oberderdingen, Germany, located in the southwest part of the country. While at SigEp, he studied computer and electrical engineering and admits not being a football fan. Mike comes to Homecoming to see fellow alumni and conduct business in his role as recruitment mentor, an alumni board position. “Few things are more important than the survival of the chapter,” Mike says. This trip was the first time he met undergraduate brothers whom he’s been corresponding with via Google Hangouts. Mike’s work has him stationed in Germany for one year, and then he will return to New York City.

Much has happened since Mike graduated in 1984. He says the buildings that were temporary when he lived at SigEp have since been torn down and replaced with permanent ones. “We used to walk everywhere. Where temporary buildings once were, there are now beautiful, new permanent structures.” The year Mike was chapter president, the SigEp flag that everyone thought was destroyed in the house fire of 1916 was found and returned. The story is that someone went back into the burning house to save it. Since being returned, the flag has been framed and mounted in the great hall.

Jay Ham '72 generally returns to Homecoming annually, as he’s a season ticket holder living



in Indianapolis. While at Purdue, he studied economics. Each time Jay returns, he notes updates to the house and how it’s operating. He says, “The fraternity was a big part of my experience at Purdue. Prior to arriving, I came from a conservative family. Friends tended to be very studious. They were my entire social life,” he says. However, living in the house changed that. “There was tremendous variety, including brothers who liked to party and those who were studious.” At the time, there were between 80 and 90 brothers sharing the house, and he said it was great getting to know so many brothers.

Dennis Lange '74 studied industrial design (formerly visual design). Despite residing in Noblesville, Ind., just north of Indianapolis, this was his first return trip to Purdue since the 1980s. He noted that the house hasn’t changed, it’s simply a landmark. Dennis says he “continues to be impressed with the guys who are here,” adding, “There’s so much talent and creativity here.” That was the most enjoyable part of his experience—multiple talents, humor, and the creativity.

Jeff Brunner '84 also stopped by to reminisce. He pledged in the fall of 1980 and studied industrial engineering. He recalls a three-story water slide landing in a four- or five-foot pool of water operating for about three weeks before being shut down due to a three-gal pileup at the bottom of the slide. Ironically, Jeff married one of the injured girls. Sharing a house with 79 other brothers really left its mark on Jeff. He says, “They got your back. It was a great thing for someone coming in and not knowing anyone.”

Jerrold L. Ulrey '75
Craig W. Wallace '75
David M. Andrews '78
Christopher D. Kelly '80
Richard C. Schroeder '82
Mark E. Sullivan '87
Douglas P. Reinking '91
Brian J. Kiessling '98
Grant R. Lohse '02
Dustin R. Longest '04
John M. Neary '05
Robert R. Vrabel '06

Donor Society (Up to \$99)

Gerhard N. Bolen '65
Mark D. Schmitz '69
Wesley E. Shimanek '79

Sigma Phi Epsilon Provided Gordon Thomson '51 a Home Following WWII

After serving in the United States Army in World War II from November 1945 to May 1947, **Gordon Thomson '51** headed to Purdue University to get his degree in chemical engineering. Both he and his brother, **Dick Thomson '51**, heard positive things regarding Sigma Phi Epsilon, and as soon as they visited, they were sold. "It provided me a home at school alongside good fellowship and good times with my pledge class," Gordon says.

A memory that truly encompasses his fraternity experience would be singing with his brothers. **Buzz Haeger '50** was the director of music and Gordon was impressed with the tunes he wrote in harmony. He was also in the Purdue Glee Club, and was fortunate enough to tour each university town in Germany with the club.

Upon graduation, he accepted a job with DuPont in New Jersey, and never looked back from the field of chemical engineering. Gordon retired in 1991 as a principal engineer with 29 years of service at General Dynamics, electric boat division, where he developed new equipment and life support systems for nuclear submarines. "It was a very satisfying career," Gordon says.

While it's hard to keep in contact with brothers, he stays up to date through the alumni news section of *From the Heart*. In his spare time, he likes to maintain his hobby of singing. He's been involved in multiple choirs, including singing solos and ensembles through his church. Gordon is a resident of Gales Ferry, Conn., and loves to spend time with his wife, Patricia, his three children, eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. You can send him an e-mail at gthomson.25@comcast.net.

Park at SigEp for Purdue Basketball Games

As you may have seen, we have a freshly paved parking lot with an even surface and nice lines. The undergraduates are selling their spots for \$20 during all basketball games. If you would like a parking spot, please contact Jake Fry at parking@purdue-sigeps.com. The spots are sold on a first-come, first-serve basis.

We have also paved the lot between SigEp and Acacia. We can fit large vans, RVs, or double-parked cars alongside the house. If you are coming with a larger vehicle or a group, please let Jake know ahead of time.

We have 18 lined spots, but it is possible to fit 25 cars with double parking. The money these men collect from parking goes to their general fund that they use for activities and brotherhood events. Feel free to donate more than \$20; they will find a good use for the money and truly appreciate it.

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Sigma Phi Epsilon-Indiana Alpha

1075 Broad Ripple Ave., Suite 302
Indianapolis, IN 46220

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Facebook - Sigma Phi Epsilon Indiana Alpha • Twitter - @PurdueSigEps

Indiana Alpha Overcomes

(Continued from page 1)

The housing fund is not ready for use, but I wanted to lay the groundwork for it. As you all know, our house will be 100 years old in 2017. A 100-year-old fraternity house is something that takes quite a bit of effort to maintain. We have made additions and updates, including plans for the cold air dorm as shared on page 1, but have been at the point for some time where we need to do some serious renovations. It is costly to keep putting bandages on an old house. We have been trying for 25 years to do this, but we must make it a priority in the near future.

Right now, our focus is the Balanced Man Scholarship (BMS). Currently, the alumni board financially covers all of the costs of the BMS program, speakers, and the annual banquet. This year, that came to about \$7,500. That cost should be covered by our funds, but we do not have enough in them to cover that based on the rules and agreements we have in place for allowance of withdrawals. Thus, the costs get covered by the alumni board

operating account. To date, we have about \$14,000 in our Norm Nabhan BMS fund. In order for the fund to fully cover the annual costs, it should be closer to \$175,000 or more.

What I am asking of you now is to direct your generous donations to our BMS fund at nationals so we can continue to strengthen our financial position and use our money where it is best utilized. All donations to the endowment funds are tax deductible. I would like this fund to be self-sustaining in the next couple of years so we can focus on the housing side.

Please send checks to Sigma Phi Epsilon at 310 S. Boulevard, Richmond, VA 23220 or go online at sigep.org and click "Give to SigEp." Please make sure to pick "Indiana Alpha - Nabhan Endowment" in the menu, or if by check, please write "Indiana Alpha - Nabhan Fund donation" in the memo line.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Fraternally,
Brian Todd '97
avc-finance@purdue-sigeps.com