

FROM THE HEART

A PUBLICATION FOR ALUMNI OF INDIANA ALPHA ♦ SIGMA PHI EPSILON ♦ SPRING 2026

PURDUESIGEP.ORG



GIFTS FOR THE HEART

Indiana Alpha Annual and Legacy Giving Program

Thank you for your donations and support of *The Campaign for Indiana Alpha—A New Beginning*. Through your efforts, we were able to raise \$2.1 million, which allowed us to complete the renovation of 690 Waldron. Larson-Danielson completed a fantastic renovation with full modernization, at the same time maintaining the character and architecture of one of the most unique buildings at Purdue. The chapter is now at capacity, and the brotherhood continues to add to the membership ranks. The brothers are No. 1 in the Greek community in GPA and continue to be very engaged in campus and social activities. In every way SigEp is back at Purdue!

It takes many things to be a successful chapter for the long-term: a growing membership, academic performance, campus engagement, and a foundation of brotherhood. As the chapter moves forward, we also need to be good financial stewards to ensure the chapter is always fiscally sound. Ongoing maintenance, capital improvements, scholarship programs, and support of brother engagement at Grand Conclave, Ruck Leadership Institute, and Carlson Leadership Academies, and the Balanced Man Program all work to ensure the health and success of the chapter. While we work to build financial flexibility through operating funds, the long-term needs of the chapter can only be accomplished through ongoing alumni donations. The purpose of the *Gifts for the Heart* program is to proactively maintain all aspects of the long-term health and stability of Indiana Alpha.

ANNUAL GIVING FUND

Indiana Alpha Leadership Fund – This is our fund for all donations to Indiana Alpha. This fund is held by SigEp Foundation through SigEp National, which has a 501(c)(3) designation. If you itemize your charitable contributions, this fund will meet the necessary requirements for tax deductibility. All money in this fund is available to the chapter to support our ongoing capital and operating requirements.

HOW TO DONATE

The easiest way to donate is to utilize the online giving portal. Go to: sigep.org/indianaalpha. You have two options:



- 1 A one-time gift of any amount: Select “One-Time” and enter the “Amount.”
- 2 Join our Annual/Recurring Giving program: Select “Annual” and choose \$Level.

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|----------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Gifts for the Heart | \$100 | Red Door Club |
| Annual/Recurring | \$500 | Skull & Crossbones Society |
| Gift Levels | \$1,000 | Order of the Sword and Heart |
| | \$2,500 | Indiana Alpha Founders Circle |

Note: Annual/Recurring gifts can be changed or ended at any time.

All gifts will be recognized in the chapter newsletter and website, unless anonymity is requested. We also want to provide special recognition for our recurring gifts.

Donations can be executed through Apple Pay, PayPal, Venmo, debit or credit, or bank transfer. You can also send a check to the address provided.

OTHER WAYS TO GIVE

Stocks and Securities – Gifts of Stocks and Securities can provide unique benefits to the donor and provide the full value of the gift to the fraternity.

Donor Advised Funds (DAF) – If you have funds in a DAF, they can be transferred to the chapter as a donation.

IRA Gifts (Required Minimum Distributions) – If you are 70½ or older, you can make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from your IRA to support the Indiana Alpha Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon. The Indiana Alpha Leadership Fund will meet tax-deductible requirements for donations of this type.

You will find information and links to execute the donation types outlined above at our giving page.

LEGACY GIVING

A legacy gift is one of the most powerful ways to ensure that Indiana Alpha continues to shape principled leaders for generations to come. By including Indiana Alpha in your estate plans, you make a commitment to our values, our traditions, and the lifelong brotherhood that defines SigEp. You might also be able to mitigate tax exposure depending on the assets you choose to give.

FINAL THOUGHTS

As you can see, we have developed a comprehensive Annual and Legacy Giving program, which provides many options and vehicles to ensure the long-term success of Indiana Alpha.

You will find program details as well as links to helpful information on the various giving options.

At any time if you should have questions, please contact avc-fundraising@purdue-sigeps.com.

Fraternally,
Jim Mosch '80
Fundraising Chairman



An Unforgettable Era of Brotherhood

LEWIS CASS ALUMNI SHARE A SIGEP BOND



“I wish all my brothers from 1976-80 Godspeed and happy retirement. You all mean more to me than words could describe.”

—Dave Jump '80

“Don was true to himself and others in his generation. Well done, brother.”

—Dan Schlegelmilch '80



“SigEp helped me grow up and learn how to deal with people.”

—Gary Chambers '81

“I had always looked up to those guys, so it was easy to make the decision to join Sigma Phi Epsilon because they were there.”

—Bret Rush '82

For some Indiana Alpha alumni, their roots run deeper than just four years together on campus. The late **Don Schlegelmilch '78** paved the way for an era of Lewis Cass High School alumni who joined SigEp at Purdue and cemented their bond as brothers for life.

Embracing the Fraternity

“Don could have pledged one of the two ag fraternities on campus, but he was looking for a chance to expand his experiences,” said Karen, Don’s wife and high school sweetheart. His farming background brought something new to Indiana Alpha Chapter that he hoped to share with others in college. “I think it was a great learning experience for him, and I’m sure it was the same for the others in the house.”

Fellow Lewis Cass graduate **Dave Jump '80** joined Sigma Phi Epsilon to be around young men from his high school, though he appreciated the variety of backgrounds united in the fraternity.

Gary Chambers '81 also highlighted the value of being around former high school classmates, along with Don’s direct influence on his decision to join. “It made us closer friends, and those friendships are still strong today. I was just a young farm boy when I got to Purdue. After I joined SigEp, being around guys from different walks of life (and big cities) broadened my horizons.”

Dave’s SigEp membership taught him how to get along with different people beyond college, especially during his military service. He appreciated always having brothers to talk to and see wherever he went on campus. “It was an experience I don’t believe one received while living in an apartment or dorm.”

Don’s brother, **Dan '80**, also embraced the SigEp brotherhood. Much like his brother, Dan enjoyed the vibrant-yet-safe environment he found at Indiana Alpha Chapter. “Don and I enjoyed talking over the years about shared friendships and how to best share love for God.”

A Generational Impact

While Don no longer lived in the house by the time **Bret Rush '82** joined, the Lewis Cass influence on SigEp was already in full effect. Don would occasionally come back to visit and had a major impact on Bret as a brother and mentor.

“I went to Don for advice all the time,” Bret said. “As I fast forward through my life, he became my wife’s and my financial advisor for more than 30 years, all the way until the good Lord called him home.”

Bret’s nephew, **Brice Clinton '03**, followed in his footsteps by joining Indiana Alpha and connecting with some younger Lewis Cass graduates. “I had heard great things about the house, loved where it was located, and was looking to get out of my comfort zone to meet new people.”

SigEp shaped Brice’s development and ongoing friendships, much like his uncle’s era. He remains involved with Indiana Alpha Chapter as much as possible despite his distance from the house, and fraternity connections have helped him through tough times.

Dan also stayed involved with SigEp beyond college as an alumni board member. “I was amazed by the sincere care I saw men exhibit for others in the 1990s—men like **Michael 'Mick' Peek '75**, **Dana Smith '66**, and **Norman Nabhan '71**.

Don’s Lasting Legacy

The lifelong SigEp brotherhood continues to resonate for these alumni thanks to Don’s commitment to sharing his fraternity experience. Bret and several others from their generation maintain regular contact through email, and he hopes the current brotherhood will embrace older alumni whenever they visit the house.

“Don stayed in contact with brothers, showed them they have high value, and encouraged involvement and love to family and friends,” Dan said. “He and Karen fine-tuned this skill like they were one person in caring and building up their three children and those fortunate to know them.”

“Don’s brothers continue to stop by our football tailgates to say hi and reminisce,” Karen added. “I was blown away by the number of SigEps that attended his funeral, some coming from out-of-state. At the funeral dinner, extra tables were needed to accommodate them. That is an excellent measure of Don’s influence and legacy. He was a very likable person and never met a stranger. When he spoke to someone, you knew he was listening and giving respect.”



Chapter of the Year

Reflecting on How Far We've Come

Indiana Alpha wins IFC Chapter of the Year!



Indiana Alpha entered 2026 with strong momentum and a renewed commitment to building upon the successes of the past year. Since before our terms began, the executive board has been hard at work strengthening the structure of our chapter and planning for new and exciting events.

One of the most exciting milestones this semester was the completion of renovations to the chapter facility. Construction concluded just before the spring semester, allowing brothers to return from winter break to a beautiful, fully updated home. The refreshed facility has already become a centerpiece of our brotherhood experience and a great point of pride for the chapter. Thank you to everyone involved in making this project a success through your generosity!

Personal development remains a cornerstone of the SigEp experience, which we are building through the launch of the Phi Challenge. Brothers are encouraged to pursue one to three semester-long goals that strengthen the mind, body, and spirit. These goals include reading the Bible to further "know thyself," setting "sound mind and body" milestones in the gym, and "seeking balance" with new skills such as playing a musical instrument.

Philanthropy has taken center stage this semester through our inaugural Queen of Hearts Week, a philanthropy-focused sweetheart competition. Five sororities participated in fundraising challenges throughout the week to support the JED Foundation and its mission of promoting mental health and suicide prevention.



To get ready for our Queen of Hearts Philanthropy Week, we hosted Dr. Thea Zunick for an impactful talk about the JED Foundation. The brothers absolutely loved the event and are motivated more than ever to show up for JED.

Together, we raised over \$8,000 (a single-semester record!) for this important cause and crowned a new SigEp Sweetheart. Massive congratulations to Maya Knies from Kappa Alpha Theta!



Our latest SigEp Sweetheart, Maya Knies!

Finally, Indiana Alpha has been selected by the Office of Fraternity, Sorority, and Cooperative Life as the IFC 2025 Chapter of the Year! This reflects the amazing growth and hard work of our members last year, and we are honored by the recognition and using this as motivation to keep raising the bar for our chapter goals.

Recruitment has also been a major focus. This spring, we welcomed 17 outstanding new members after emphasizing our 365 recruitment initiatives and showcasing the newly renovated house. With these additions, the chapter has now surpassed 90 members, and we have set a goal of surpassing the 100-member mark next semester.

As the semester concludes, brothers are, as always, focused on maintaining our strong academic performance and once again achieving the highest GPA within Purdue's IFC community.

Moreover, we were recognized by the national fraternity with the Talent Power award for recruitment at Carlson Leadership Academy this year, and we look forward to continuing to build on that momentum for future cycles.

It's a great day to be a SigEp.

In Phi,
Mitch Davis '28
Chapter President | president@purdue-sigeps.com

RECENT GRADUATE: *Luke Muckerheide '25*

We're excited to introduce a new segment highlighting some of our recent young alumni, beginning with **Luke Muckerheide '25!**

Luke graduated last spring with a degree in honors mechanical engineering and is currently based in Bloomington, Indiana, where he works as an engineer for the U.S. Navy at NSWC Crane. He recently purchased a home in the area, which he shares with his sister, his sister's fiancé, and his own fiancé, Liv. He and Liv have been engaged since October.



During his time in the chapter, Luke was highly involved in leadership and operations. He served as chaplain, vice president of member development, and as a member of the standards board. Among his many contributions, Luke played a key role in establishing the chapter bylaws, developing the executive board structure, and representing the chapter at the prestigious Tragos Quest in Greece.

We are proud to recognize Luke's impact on the chapter and look forward to his continued success.

125 YEARS OF SIGEP.

One weekend to give back.

Nov. 1-2 marks our 11th annual **Founders Day of Giving**. Founders Day officially kicks off SigEp's 125th Anniversary era, a milestone celebration that culminates at the 60th Grand Chapter Conclave in Phoenix in July 2027. Our goal is simple: honoring our past and investing in the bold future where SigEp remains the largest and best fraternity in the country—bar none.

Beginning in October, you can visit sigep.org/foundersday to give early and put Indiana Alpha on the leaderboard. Every dollar fuels the SigEp experience, ensuring our brotherhood continues building balanced men across the country. To serve as a Chapter Captain or set up a challenge gift, email foundation@sigep.net.

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Sigma Phi Epsilon-Indiana Alpha Purdue University

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More details will come by email! Not on our email list? Visit mysigep.org to update your contact information.

CARLSON TRAVELS AND ACCOLADES

Highly regarded among Sigma Phi Epsilon's signature leadership development events are the Carlson Leadership Academies that are held each winter around the United States. The Academies are named after Curt Carlson, a SigEp from the University of Minnesota and chairman of the Carlson Companies, which owned the Radisson Hotels and TGI Fridays. Curt was also chairman of the SigEp Educational Foundation. He believed that part of SigEp's mission was to develop "Leaders for America's Communities."

As a result, over 1,000 undergraduates are brought together annually to learn leadership skills. On February 13-15, nine of our Indiana Alpha undergraduates attended CLA in Chicago. On Friday evening, they had dinner with **Norm Nabhan '71**, past Grand President and current member of the Indiana Alpha Alumni Board.

The undergraduates informed Norm that they had a successful fall and spring recruitment and that the chapter now had 91 members. They felt that getting to over 100 members was achievable, and that they should have a full house by fall 2026 with 62 men living in. This is truly remarkable for a chapter that was rechartered just last year. Today's Indiana Alpha undergraduates come from all over the country (and beyond, with several international students). They are pursuing majors like nuclear engineering, cybersecurity engineering, and others that did not exist in the '70s and '80s.

At the Saturday evening Carlson dinner, the chapter was honored with the Talent Power award for recruitment success.



Brothers enjoyed attending Carlson with Norm Nabhan '71.

Indiana Alpha accepts the Talent Power award.

