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IN MEMORY

William Krieghbaum '47

James McCauley '61

ON THE WEB

Are You Receiving Our Monthly eLetter?

If not, update your email today! You'll get the latest alumni and chapter news and Indiana Theta event details delivered right to your inbox.

Send your email address to our alumni office at feedback@affinityconnection.com (mention Phi Delt at Purdue), or update it online at www.purdue-phi.net.

MAKE A GIFT

The future of our active chapter and alumni program relies on you! Please make a contribution to support our ongoing efforts.

There are three ways to donate:

- ✓ Call 800-975-6699.
- ✓ Log on to www.purdue-phi.net.
- ✓ Mail a check payable to "Purdue Phi Club" to the return address on this newsletter.

The Purdue Phi



Indiana Theta Chapter ♦ Phi Delta Theta Fraternity
Purdue University ♦ West Lafayette, Indiana
www.purdue-phi.net ♦ February 2011

INITIATION

Indiana Theta Initiates 15 New Members in Oxford

On January 29th, 2011 the Indiana Theta Chapter of Phi Delta Theta traveled to Miami University in Oxford, Ohio to perform initiation. There were a total of 15 new members initiated with around 20 active members and alumni attending, along with General Headquarters staff. The trip included initiation, followed by a tour of General Headquarters. The trip was primarily sponsored by alumni donations, and the people who attended this event thoroughly enjoyed it and would like to thank the alumni for making it possible.



UPCOMING EVENT

Join Indiana Theta to Celebrate Founders' Day 2011

*By Rick Roth, CAB Alumni Relations Coordinator
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On April 2, 2011 Indiana Theta will be celebrating Founders' Day with a formal dinner and ceremony at the Phi Lodge. The agenda for the event is as follows:

- 6:00 PM** Reception with hors d'oeuvres and refreshments
- 7:00 PM** Dinner
- 8:00 PM** Program including opening remarks by Bob Bowen and keynote speaker Robert Miller.
Presentation of Silver, Gold and Palladian legion awards

This promises to be an event that shouldn't be missed. Bob Miller as the official historian of our fraternity will undoubtedly give an enlightening and entertaining perspective of Phi Delta Theta that will rekindle the spirit of brotherhood in all of us. Recognition of our alumni who have hit the membership

milestones noted above will also provide for a memorable evening.

Please reserve the date now. Further information will be forthcoming including room availability and notification of potential award recipients. RSVP will be required. The deadline to RSVP is March 15. For more information or to reserve your place at the event, contact Rick Roth using the contact information above.



ALUMNI UPDATES

'50s

J. Allan Campbell '51

(1043 Cloverfield Ln., Cincinnati, OH 45224; aldotcam@gmail.com) Last October, Brother **Lew Wood '50** was inducted into the prestigious Indiana Broadcast Pioneers Hall of Fame. This recognized his long career in radio and television, which started in South



Bend, IN and then included being anchor newsman on the NBC Today Show (with Barbara Walters), being a CBS correspondent in Dallas the day JFK was assassinated, being a war correspondent in Vietnam, and later being head of Public Relations for the American Legion.

Family and friends attended the installation banquet in Indianapolis. Pictured here are Al Campbell (left) and Lew. Lew and Al not only were Phi's together but also combat marines in the Korean War. They, like many brothers, have stayed in contact since graduation.

'80s

Stephen Melonides '88

(2037 N. Sedgwick St., Chicago, IL 60614; smelonides@flightline.com) Delta DC-9 Captain **Phil Spencer '87** (right) and B-767



First Officer **Stephen Melonides '88** (left) standing in front of a Delta 767 on the Atlanta International airport ramp.

Phil gave Steve his first ride in an airplane back in 1984 at Purdue. **Ramak Fazel '87** also came along on that ride and didn't feel too well after some of the aerobatics that were performed. Ramak went on to be the captain on many of his own planes later at Purdue.

CHAPTER NEWS

Indiana Theta Continues Excellent Rush Efforts

By Brad Dickinson 1503, CAB Recruitment Liaison
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Recruitment continues to be a top priority at Indiana Theta. The fall 2010 rush season was very successful as the result of a significant effort by both actives and alumni. The resulting pledge class of 19 Phikeias successfully completed the newly created "Bond Week" just prior to their fall semester finals. And this was not any ordinary initiation! In keeping with our collective efforts to rebuild the integrity and strength of our chapter, and with a focus on this pledge class, we made arrangements for initiation to be conducted at our General Headquarters at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio with GHQ staff members. This was an extremely meaningful and memorable experience for these gentlemen - which will be part of their Phi Delt foundation that they can build upon for years to come.

Even with last semester's success, we are planning an aggressive winter rush schedule with the expectation of welcoming a spring 2011 pledge class that will be larger than many of the spring classes we alumni are accustomed to seeing at the Phi Lodge. At this writing, we are concluding a four-week rush schedule. I can report that our initial event held during the first week of classes drew so many candidates that there was a need to quickly assemble overflow seating outside of the dining room! The word is getting out: Phi Delta Theta has a rich history and offers tremendous opportunity to new Purdue students looking for self improvement and close lifelong friendships. Please be aware that this winter and spring effort will entirely deplete the funds raised by the "503 Club" donations last fall (designated

for recruitment). We are desperately counting on your financial support during the planned summer 2011 "503 club" fundraising campaign so we can reload for the fall 2011 rush effort. In the mean time, if you can make a donation directed to the "503 club" we can assure you it will directly affect our recruitment effort between now and the fall. Find more information at www.purdue-phi.net.

If you have any questions about the recruitment activities or know of any high school seniors who are planning to attend Purdue next fall who would be good Phi Delt material, please contact me.

A Foundation for the Future of Engineering at Purdue

Bob Bowen '62 Recalls His Phi Delt Days and Shares His Hopes for the Future of the University's Engineering Program

Dr. **Robert L. "Bob" Bowen '62** has been very successful in his career as a Civil Engineer, ultimately founding his own firm Bowen Engineering Corporation, but he still counts his years as a Phi Delt among the greatest and happiest in his life.

"I realize now that my four years at Purdue and as a Phi Delt were the greatest of my life but at the time I didn't know it," Bob said.

But he knows it today and the University knows too. Thanks to Bob's financial funding, the Robert L. and Terry L. Bowen High-Scale Performance Civil Engineering Laboratory was dedicated in 2002. The lab is an \$11 million research facility which allows engineers to test structures like bridges and buildings while focusing on making construction materials more durable, safe, and earthquake resistant.

"You spend all your life building an organization, and this is such a great way to put your estate to great use," Bob said in a 2002 edition of *The Exponent*. "Some of the nation's best engineers and students can be found at Purdue. They deserve to work in a facility that matches their talents."

Engineering wasn't the only focus in Bob's life as an undergraduate. He was a very involved Phi Delt and has great memories of his experiences living in the house.

"It was a great house with great brothers," Bob said. "I feel very lucky to have been a part of it. It was a great atmosphere and my brothers were very cool".

Some of Bob's favorite brothers and best friends from the group are still active friendships and important relationships, both personally and professionally.

For example, Bob had the distinction of fixing up **Jim Wurster '59** with his current wife. Bob and Jim were great friends at Purdue and have since gone on to work often together. Jim has an engineering firm which Bob has enlisted many times in his construction projects. The two regularly play golf together as well.

"Jim was like an icon to me, as was **Bob Lowe '59**, when I was an active brother" Bob recalled, "When we were at Purdue, we were civil engineering students. It's great now to be

able to keep in touch with and work with both of them."

Bob Lowe is now Bob Bowen's lawyer. The two see each other frequently.

Bob thinks that the secret to the power of Phi Delta Theta in the lives of Purdue students is in the great brothers and the social group overall.

"When you join a fraternity, you shrink the size of a University," Bob said. "So, if Purdue had 45,000 students when I was a student, you effectively take your social group from tens of thousands of people down to a manageable 80 people. Those are the guys you deal with on a daily basis. You live with them, work with them, share a house, get dating advice, and basically share lives."

Having served as Social Chairman, Bob has a great many memories of his time living at the Phi Delt house.

"I was in charge of the parties after football games," Bob said, "And those parties were not to be missed!"

He recalled that we had our annual dance and Bob put together a dance band for the party featuring his musical talents and those of some friends on campus.

"I played the saxophone and I knew some other musicians on campus, so we just put something together. We didn't really have a band name or anything," Bob mused. "We played big band stuff like Glen Miller and Stan Kenton, which was popular music at the time. It was a great experience for me."

Some of Bob's fondest memories of Phi Delta Theta include normal day-to-day routines at the house playing bridge with the brothers, eating meals together, and bringing dates to the house. He also recalls the house mother and cook.

"They made us get a house mother," Bob explained. "I guess we weren't too tidy on our own. Mother Miller was liked by a great majority of the brothers. Poor woman, we probably drove her insane!"

"We also had a cook named "Daddy-O." He had a restaurant business across town



Bob Bowen '62

and took care of the cooking of meals for the house."

"I was a big eater back then," commented Bob. "Some people made cracks about the food, but I always thought it was pretty good."

When asked if he had advice for active brothers, Bob said it was a matter of expectations.

"Raise your expectations. Expect to be the best. Raise your standards and expect to win," Bob instructed. "The chapter has had some challenges – but if they remember to keep high objectives and keep the values of Phi Delta Theta, they'll pull through even stronger than before."

Bob is glad to keep in close contact with the current chapter as well as alumni brothers. Last year he taught Construction Engineering at Purdue and will do so again next fall. He is also an officer in the alumni chapter and on the board for the fraternity's Educational Foundation. Bob is working with the Phi Delt to found a Hall of Fame for notable brothers.

Two years ago Bob was able to attend the alumni golf outing with his Phi Delt brothers. The outing is the largest of its kind among all the fraternities at Purdue. It had 140 attendees and Bob had the distinction of being the oldest alum, though he was nearly matched by his friend and brother **Bill Edmundson '64** who hit the links with Bob.

CHAPTER ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE

Investing in the Future of Indiana Theta

By *Andy Bosworth, Chairman, Chapter Advisory Board*
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At the initial meeting of the Chapter Advisory Board (CAB) last April, it was decided that the priorities for the chapter are:

1. Rebuild membership with quality individuals
2. Improve the house to make it more appealing to the membership and alumni
3. Build strong relationships with the university, alumni and general headquarters.

Through the efforts of the current actives and alumni, the fall semester was concluded having achieved a lot of progress to those ends. At this juncture the results can be measured easily. We have added 19 fine young men to our fraternity from the fall pledge class and have many promising spring rushees. The house is in the best shape it has been in for a long time with common areas as nice as any fraternity on campus. An energized alumni base has answered the call for help with their time, talent and treasure. General Headquarters have become integral in the

rebuilding of the chapter and are recognized for the great resource they are. It is very clear that everyone is pulling for Indiana Theta to become a leading force at Purdue.

After almost one full year since the formation of the CAB, it is also clear that it will take quite some time and additional effort to get the organization to the level of prominence that all of us would like to see. We need to build on these successes by having alumni serve as examples of leadership and commitment and providing resources to allow the progress to continue.

We raised over \$25,000 this past year that was dedicated to the rebuilding effort. Here is a summary of some of the activities:

Rush Activities

- Summer recruitment mailing to all incoming freshman
- General Headquarters assigned an 8 man team to train the actives on recruiting

techniques prior to the start of school

- Rush Events including: Hog Roast Luau, Paintball Competition, Steak and Cigar Night, Night at Indiana Pacers Game, Driving Range Event, Bowling Party
- Neophytes at GHQ in Oxford

Alumni in Action Activities

- Summer Cleanup
- Complete remodeling of the TV Room including the Phamous Phi wall
- New furniture in the formal Living Room
- Remodeling of the Pool Room
- General clean up and painting

At the conclusion of spring rush, we will have consumed almost all of these funds and we will begin more fundraising activities this summer to refill the coffers. Please be generous in your contributions knowing that a tremendous amount of progress has been made and your money has been and will continue to be well spent on the future of Indiana Theta.

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