

UPCOMING EVENTS

Founders' Day

April 8

5 p.m. Meet & Greet

6 p.m. Dinner

6:30 p.m. Guest Speaker **Mark Kappes '77**, Captain for United Continental Airlines for over 30 years

7 p.m. Induction of Golden Legionnaire brothers (initiated 50+ years) and Silver Legionnaire brothers (initiated 25+ years)

Cost: \$25/person, to be paid at the door

*Business attire preferred

*Brothers only, please

RSVP: Michael Phelan (vpa.purduephidelts@gmail.com)

Purdue Grand Prix

April 22

27th Phi Open

August 12

Full details and online registration at www.purdue-phi.net.

Homecoming

September 23

ON THE WEB

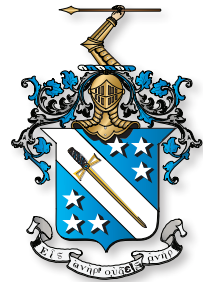


Are you receiving our eLetter? We send the latest news, updates, and event details each month via eLetter.

If you're not receiving your copy, send an email to our alumni relations firm at alumninews@affinityconnection.com to get added to the list (include PDT Purdue in the subject line). You can also update your email address online at www.purdue-phi.net.

The Purdue Phi

Indiana Theta Chapter ♦ Phi Delta Theta Fraternity
Purdue University ♦ West Lafayette, Indiana
www.purdue-phi.net ♦ March 2017



ALUMNI REPORT

Want to Go Back to College?

This Is as Close as You'll Ever Get

We'll let you in on a secret: it's a great time to get involved with Indiana Theta. According to some of our volunteers, alumni are more engaged with the chapter now than maybe anytime in the history of the chapter (or, "at least since the '70s, when I was an undergrad," says Chapter Advisory Board President **Andy Bosworth '80**).

So many alumni have re-engaged in recent years, and have had so much fun doing it. There is record attendance at annual alumni events: The Phi Open Golf Outing in late summer, which is the largest annual fraternity golf outing at Purdue; Alumni in Action house improvement in early fall; Homecoming; the February CAB Conference; Founders' Day; and the Summer Work Session.

At the undergraduate level, the chapter is on a roll, and the actives are working really hard to improve their overall academic standing. The serious-minded nature of the actives

and the alcohol-free housing environment make Phi Delt stand apart from other fraternities on campus. This, combined with great participation in campus activities and the optimal location of the chapter house, has made us very visible at Purdue. Simply put, we are above the bad press that a lot of Greek organizations get these days—and have our dedicated alumni group to thank for contributing to that success.

The Alumni Association is always looking for new alumni to get involved in their post-graduation years. Whether you return for one or more of our upcoming events, or volunteer to serve on the Chapter Advisory Board, the House Corporation, or in another capacity, you can make a real impact for the future of our chapter—and have fun while doing it!

"It is as close to going back to college as you'll ever get," said Bosworth.

ACT NOW!

5 Ways to Get Involved with Phi Delt this Year

1. Come back for an alumni event. Find details above and at www.purdue-phi.net.
2. Reconnect with a long-lost friend. You can find contact information for fellow alumni from your class, zip code, or era in the online directory on our web site.
3. Share a story, memory, or photo from your college days or a more recent reunion. Email your submissions to alumninews@affinityconnection.com.
4. Volunteer. You can serve on the board, as a mentor, or get your hands dirty and help make repairs to the house.
5. Connect with an undergraduate. The actives are doing great things on campus and are always welcoming of alumni interactions and guidance. Contact President Steven Lorenz at president.purduephidelts@gmail.com.

Kappes Family Boasts Most Phi Delta Theta Members in Fraternity History

Mark Kappes '77 Shares Family History That Has Built a Legacy

Like his father before him, **Mark Kappes '77** didn't assume that his sons, Alex and Michael, would join Phi Delta Theta just because it is a tradition in the Kappes family. He encouraged both of his sons to do their homework and find out whether the fraternity was right for them.

"While I am very pleased that they are both members of the fraternity," Mark said, "I wanted them to make their own choice, much like my father told me."

Mark's sons, **Philip Alexander "Alex" Kappes '02**, and **Michael Ross Kappes '05** both joined Phi Delta Theta, adding to the ever-growing list of Kappes family men who are also Phi Delt brothers. In fact, the Kappes family holds the record for having the most brothers from the same family in Phi Delta Theta history.

A few years ago, Mark's father, **Philip Spangler "Skip" Kappes '45**, received the Legion of Merit Award from the fraternity at their biennial convention. It was there that they found out that while other families have longer genealogies in the fraternity, none have as many members as the Kappes. Mark's sons were also in attendance.

"That was a very special moment to share with my father and both my sons," he recalled.

In addition to doing their homework, Kappes family members have undoubtedly seen the benefits of being in the fraternity that their fathers, uncles, and cousins have enjoyed before them. The Kappes family has made Phi Delta Theta a part of their lives long after graduation.

"My father was President of Indiana Gamma (Butler) while an undergraduate. After graduating from law school, he became president of the housing board for the



Left to right, Michael Kappes, Alex Kappes, "Skip" Kappes, and Mark Kappes

chapter. He did that for nearly 40 years," said Mark. "It's hard not to see what he put into the fraternity and what he got out of it."

"The bond I have with all of my family that are members of the fraternity is fortified by the bond of Phi Delta Theta."

While it has been several years since Mark's time at Purdue, he has fond memories of his time in the Phi Delt house. Today, Mark is a Captain with United Continental Airlines. At Purdue, he was a member of the Aviation Technology Flying Club. Through the club he had access to an airplane, and some nights he could be found going through the house asking his brothers if they wanted to go for a ride.

"It might be 11 o'clock at night, but I rarely had trouble finding people that wanted to go flying," recalled Mark. "I could show them the campus from the air. If they grew up near West Lafayette, I could show them their family homes. That was always fun."

In addition to fond memories, Mark says that he took away some invaluable life

lessons from his time at Phi Delt—one of the most important being to stay open to other peoples' ideas.

"After talking with my dad about how people weren't doing things right, (at least as I thought they should be done), he told me that my ideas, while not wrong, also weren't right," Mark explained. "There is more than one way to accomplish a task. I needed to be more flexible."

Mark says that while it can be difficult to separate family member bonds from Phi Delt connections, he credits the fraternity with deepening those relationships.

"I can say that the bond I have with all of my family that are members of the fraternity is fortified by the bond of Phi Delta Theta," he said.

Mark and his wife, Kathy, have three sons and eight grandchildren, ranging in age from 16 to three. Outside of work Mark enjoys flying his personal airplane, a four-seat Piper Archer. He is also an amateur photographer, a scuba diver, and has recently been taking cooking lessons. He says that genealogy is a new interest and he can currently trace back six generations.

Mark Kappes will be our guest speaker at Indiana Theta's Founders' Day celebration on Saturday, April 8. Also on that day, Phi Delt will induct Golden Legionnaire brothers (initiated 50+ years) and Silver Legionnaire brothers (initiated 25+ years). Mark is hopeful that his father Skip and other family members will be in attendance.

Read more from Mark, including the full listing of his family's Phi Delt members, at www.purdue-phi.net.

ALUMNI EVENTS

The Phi Open is the Biggest Greek Golf Outing at Purdue Add Your Name to the Record Books by Being in Attendance this August 12



Move over, Purdue fraternities. Phi Delt has some major bragging rights.

The annual Phi Open is the largest fraternity golf tournament on campus. In its 27th year, it has grown from about 25 local brothers in 1991 to the more than 140 that are expected on August 12, 2017.

And while we can tout our claim to fame on the golf course, the Phi Open is about so much more than golf.

“It’s a great way to keep in touch with friends and brothers and it is a good way to raise money for the house,” said **Andy Beasley ’91**, who has been organizing the event for 20 years. “Some of the most fun and most formative years of my life were spent with those guys, and I know there are a lot of them I would lose touch with if it were not for the Phi Open.”

While Andy looks forward to reconnecting with old friends and regulars at the annual event, he equally enjoys introducing alumni to the Phi Open for the first time.

“Frequently they come solo, then the next year they are recruiting guys they haven’t seen in a while to come back,” he said.

And that is how the Phi Open has become so successful. Through word of mouth and brother-to-brother invitations, the event has continued to grow over the years.

“My personal favorite time is watching brothers walk in at check-in for the golf

tournament and connecting with their friends,” said Andy. “You’ll see somebody walk into the building and suddenly choruses of nicknames echo off the walls. There is a lot of happiness at the start of the Phi Open each year.”

If you’ve never attended the Phi Open, there’s no better time than 2017 to start—even if you’re not much of a golfer.

“It is a scramble ... anyone can swing a putter,” joked Andy. “It is not about the competition. The winning foursome only gets \$200 dollars in pro shop money. It is about your friends you don’t see enough and just having a really fun day with them.”

Golfers (and not-so-golfers) can make a weekend out of the trip back to West Lafayette.

Typically held during the weekend between summer school graduation and the start of the fall semester, campus is pretty quiet. Attendees always take time to walk through the house, walk through campus, and visit some of their favorite Purdue locales.

“Harry’s does pretty well the weekend of the Phi Open!” Andy exclaimed.

Whether you’ve been attending for years, or have yet to hit the links at your first Phi Open, Andy encourages brothers from all classes to consider coming back this year.

“You have golfers of all abilities in attendance,” he said. “Lots of guys tell me this is the only round they play all year, and you can tell that is true when you get out there.

The draw is a fun day or weekend with your college buddies.”

CHAPTER GRAND

We regret to share news of the passing of **Keith Marshall ’46**, who played in almost every Phi Open. In fact, his obituary referenced the annual fraternity event:

As a proud member of Phi Delta Theta he returned to Purdue annually to participate in the Phi Open golf tournament.

“He was born the same month as my Dad and was one of the nicest human beings ever to grace the Phi Lodge,” said Andy Beasley. “Every time he showed up was a great day to be in his presence.”



Keith Marshall ’46, pictured here with Phi Open organizer **Andy Beasley ’91**, has attended the annual golf event nearly every year until his passing in October 2016.



PHI DELTA THETA Purdue

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Indiana Theta of Phi Delta Theta Alumni Association: The Closest You'll Ever Get to Going Back to College!

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Inside:

- *Details of Founders' Day and the 27th Annual Phi Open (the Largest Greek Golf Tourney at Purdue!)*
- *Plus News from the Biggest Legacy Family in Phi Delt History*

CHAPTER NEWS

Phi Delt GPA Nears Top Spot at Purdue, Chapter Recruits Largest Spring PC in Years

By Steven Lorenz, Chapter President

Indiana Theta is pleased to announce that our cumulative GPA has reached 3.02! The chapter's term GPA for fall 2016 was in the top 10 of all fraternities at Purdue—just under 0.8 grade points from first place.

The chapter has also recruited the largest Pledge Class in years, with 16 Phikea joining our ranks. We held six recruitment events this spring: Fratletics, Frat Feud, Mini Golf, 6 Pillars, Game Night, and Dodgeball.

Approximately 50–55 students went



through the recruitment process. We are striving to gain another 30+-man PC in the fall, and are going to continue to follow our recipe of being organized, thoughtful, and

logical when planning rush events and selecting the new members we wish to join our great fraternity.

Philanthropically, Phi Delt Phys Ed, a '90s gym class theme philanthropy held with Delta Gamma, raised \$600. We are also hoping to be involved with GHQ's April Iron Phi Challenge again this year.

The active brothers look forward to connecting with alumni at one of our many upcoming events this year. We'll see you at 503 State St. this spring!

ALUMNI REUNIONS

Buddy Check 21

Group of Phi Delt Alumni Has Reunited Annually Since 1997

A group of Indiana Theta alumni from the late '80s and early '90s celebrated three decades of friendship during a trip to Scottsdale, Ariz. in January 2017. The group has reunited at different locations across the U.S. every year since 1997.

Pictured (L to R): Jay DesMarteau, Andy Beasley, Jim Emmons, Mike Cooney, Andy Beauchamp, and Mike Fritton.

Jim says: "We played multiple rounds of golf and hiked Camelback Mountain. We had a fantastic time."

Share pictures from your Phi Delt reunions at www.purdue-phi.net.

