

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Founders' Day

Spring 2018  
Date TBD

### 28th Phi Open

August 11, 2018  
Full details and online registration at [www.purdue-phi.net](http://www.purdue-phi.net).

## IRON PHIS

Congratulations to the following Indiana Theta brothers who have earned Iron Phi status...

**Brandon Haze '14**  
**Paul Bloodgood**  
**Michael Hohn '18**  
**Steven Lorenz '18**  
**Joe Lorenz '85**  
**John Geis '53**  
**Dayne Michael**  
**Levi Brown**  
**David Wiczczak**

## ON THE WEB

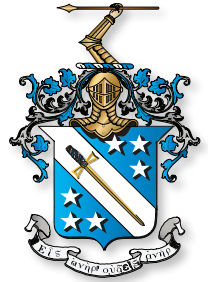


We've recently launched a Facebook page for Indiana Theta of Phi Delta Theta Alumni Association. "Like" us to stay in the loop on the latest chapter and alumni news, event details, and other important information.

[www.facebook.com/PurduePhiAlumni](http://www.facebook.com/PurduePhiAlumni)

# The Purdue Phi

Indiana Theta Chapter • Phi Delta Theta Fraternity  
Purdue University • West Lafayette, Indiana  
[www.purdue-phi.net](http://www.purdue-phi.net) • October 2017



## CHAPTER REPORT

### Indiana Theta Launches Into National Spotlight

*Brothers Earn Recognition for Iron Phi Efforts and Emerging Leaders Training*



Fall 2017 Phikeas

Indiana Theta brothers continue to uphold our chapter's longstanding legacy, both on campus and at the national level.

Most notable has been the brothers' efforts to earn Iron Phi Chapter status—a Phi Delta Theta challenge to encourage undergraduates and alumni to participate in athletic events and raise money for the fight against ALS. Indiana Theta ranks 4th among all chapters for Iron Phi fundraising, and an article titled *How to Become an Iron Phi Chapter*, authored by Chapter President **Steven Lorenz '18** and **Michael Hohn '18**, was featured in the Summer 2017 issue of *The Scroll*. To date, nine Indiana Theta undergraduates and alumni have earned recognition as Iron Phis, including **John Geis '53** (*read his story on page 2*).

With a fall pledge class of **XX** men, the chapter is setting its sights on growing to 130+ members in the next four years—a commitment to strengthening our numbers while maintaining the quality of our brotherhood.

Indiana Theta was also recognized for having the most delegates present at Phi Delta Theta's Emerging Leaders Institute this past summer, with 17 brothers in attendance.

The chapter invites you to stop by to tour the house and meet the undergraduate brothers the next time you're in West Lafayette. "Just because you graduated from Purdue doesn't mean you graduated from this fraternity," said Chapter President Steve Lorenz. "This will always be your fraternity. You are always welcome."

## ALUMNI PROFILE

### You're Never Too Old to Become an Iron Phi!

#### *John Geis '53 Receives Recognition for Swimming and Fundraising in the Fight Against ALS*

**John Geis '53** reached Iron Phi distinction after competing in the 2017 National Senior Games in Birmingham, Ala. He also raised more than \$1,000 toward the fight against ALS.

Competing June 5-7, John took home gold medals in the 100-yard freestyle and the 200-yard freestyle, silver in the 500-yard freestyle and bronze in the 50-yard freestyle. He also took third in the 50-yard backstroke but had that finish taken away because of an illegal turn.

"It was fantastic; my goal was to compete," he said. "But I won two gold, a silver and a bronze medal in my now 85-89 age bracket in four events. That was a major item crossed off my bucket list."

John said he got back into swimming for competition in 2015 after not swimming competitively since 1953.

"I had enjoyed swimming laps in outdoor pools in the many locations where we lived over the past 60+ years," he said. "It was in 2014 after moving into Carolina Meadows in Chapel Hill, NC, a continuing care retirement community, which had a 20-yard indoor pool, that I started swimming laps on a three-to-five-days-a-week basis. The wellness director then talked me into entering our county



*John Geis '53*

Senior Games in 2015. I won first place in four events in the 80-84 age bracket, which qualified for the North Carolina Senior Games. My qualifying times were competitive with the 2014 winners, so I entered and won gold medals in four NC Senior events in that age bracket. That was to be the end of my competitive swimming.

"However, I then learned about the National Senior Games, which were held every two years, and the 2017 NSG would be in Birmingham, Ala. My times were competitive with the 2015 NSG times, so I put that on my bucket list for 2017."

John focused on developing his stamina for the National Senior Games.

"It was mostly building up my endurance as I had to swim four events, the 100, 200 and 500-yard freestyle, plus the 50-yard backstroke, all in one day," he said. "I received dietary recommendations from our continuing care retirement community dietician, researched new methods to improve my swimming stroke, and started a training schedule. My wife of 61 years, Lou Ann, was most helpful with proper foods and limiting me to one glass of wine a day. It was not too hard, but not easy, especially giving up the

martinis every evening."

John said he knew Phi Delta Theta was raising money to help fight ALS.

"I had become a good friend of Paul Hardin, ex-chancellor of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, who was diagnosed with ALS in 2014, which assisted in making that contribution," he said.

John looks back fondly on his college days with Phi Delta Theta.

"I have returned to the Phi Lodge for Homecoming many, many times, joined Phi Delta Theta alumni groups in every city where we lived that had one, and gave back to the Indiana Theta chapter financially whenever requested," he said. "I also want to add that I found five other Phis in our continuing care retirement community and have organized luncheons every six months since 2015. Zach Hilliard, Development Officer from Phi Delta Theta headquarters, was in our area last fall and joined us. When he learned of my N.C. State Senior winnings, he recommended me for the Iron Phi award."

John said Phi Delta Theta helped him build bonds that have gone long past college.

"Our 1949 pledge class has been returning for Homecoming on an-every-other-year basis since the 1990s," he said. "We have had as many as 11, but 2015, there were only four."

## AT THE HOUSE

### A New Look at the Phi Lodge

#### *State Street Redevelopment Project Nears Completion, House Suite Renovations Continue*

Things are looking a bit different in front of the Phi Lodge. As part of the State Street Redevelopment Project, which will add tree-lined sidewalks, bicycle paths, public art, and more to the main road into campus, has entered its third phase this fall. The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2018, in time for

Purdue's 150-year anniversary. Inside, alumni continued with suite-style renovations at the Phi Lodge, completing two more rooms and a bathroom. This project has been a huge success, and the room layout is a model for a five-year plan to completely renovate all rooms in the house.



*The Phi Lodge sits behind a dug-up State Street this summer.*

## BROTHERHOOD EVENTS

### Scenes from Homecoming



### Phi Open: 130+ Attend the Largest Fraternity Golf Outing on Campus



One hundred thirty Purdue Phis and friends came back to West Lafayette in August to participate in the university's largest fraternity golf outing. The winners of the 2017 Phi Open were: **Keith Huffman**, **Dan Elisha '88**, **John Jensen '87**, and **Chris Schrader '91**. Pictured here in their red, white, and blue are **Steve Nystedt '92**, **Tim Johnson '93**, **Mike Murphy '92**, and **Rusty Zay '93**.



Thanks to **Victor Thompson '81** for sharing this great picture of alumni from his era taking a break from the golf action on the course. Pictured are: **Victor**, **Randy Asmus '82**, **Rick Roth '80**, **Bob Bouggy '79**, **Mike Fouts '80**, **Bob Riddell '79**, **Tom Tremain '79**, **Rick Hayes**, and **Tom Bloodgood '81**.



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**Inside:**  
**Nine brothers earn Iron Phi status,  
 including a '53 grad!**



**Indiana Theta Continues to Grow!** Read more about our newest Phikea and other chapter news on page 1.

## ALUMNI PROFILE

### David Tavitian '80 Earns President's Award for Service to Indiana Theta

Several years ago, living in California, **David Tavitian '80** found it hard to stay connected with his Phi Delt chapter. So upon moving back to Indiana, he decided it was the perfect chance to act.

"I really felt it was important to have a chance to get back to the chapter," says David. "I was really excited to get back into it and help out as much as I could."

He started by volunteering his time to help with projects, such as Alumni in Action—a weekend each fall where our alumni brothers return for a football game and spend some time cleaning the house and making improvements. David often found himself sticking around the house much longer than he had planned, working as long as possible to make sure things got done.



David Tavitian '80

Then in a twist of fate, David was able to make an even bigger impact on the chapter. At a Founders' Day dinner just after his move back, he met **Jim Jackson '67** — an older brother who, to both of their amazement, was about to become his next door neighbor. As he got to know Jim, he would often mention the projects and happenings at Indiana Theta,

suggesting that and his Phi Delt friends reconnect too. Eventually, an entire group of '60s brothers had gotten involved with the chapter once again.

"I just kind of got his age group of people involved in the house again by saying, 'Hey, we're doing this stuff,' such as Alumni in Action," David says.

For his above-and-beyond service and impact on Indiana Theta, David was presented with the President's Award at this year's Founders' Day dinner in March.

"I felt very proud and happy to receive it," says David. "I wasn't expecting to be given it."

Read the full story at [www.purdue-phi.net](http://www.purdue-phi.net).

## FROM THE ARCHIVES



### Can You Believe It's Been 30 Years?

Check out those hairstyles and moustaches. And who are the guys on the bikes?

We love coming across old photos from our chapter's history, like this one from 1987. Can any brothers pictured share some of the best stories from this era? Or give us more info about this picture?

We invite alumni from all eras to share the best pictures and stories from your college days. Submit yours at [www.purdue-phi.net](http://www.purdue-phi.net).