

## OFFICERS

### President

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### Vice President

**Jeff Reising '77**

### Treasurer

**Mike Fritton '90**

### Directors

**Dr. Robert Bouggy '79**

**Mark Dobbs '71**

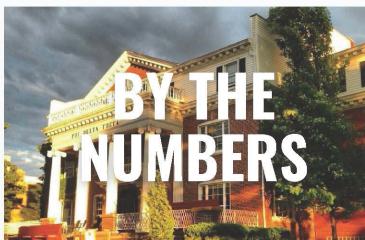
**Gary Jackson '75**

**Terry King '76**

**Tim Quigley '76**

### Chapter Advisor

**Ron Reehling '80**



**128**

Years of Indiana Theta Chapter



**\$35,000**

Annual Fund Goal



**\$20,548**

Raised as of  
April 26



**60**

Alumni Donors  
Have Given

**3**

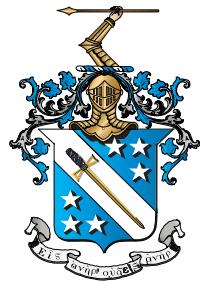
- Ways for YOU to Give:
- Make a gift online at [purdue-phi.com](http://purdue-phi.com).
  - Call our Donation Hotline at 1-800-975-6699.
  - Mail a check using the enclosed envelope and donation form.

# The Purdue Phi

Indiana Theta Chapter ◆ Phi Delta Theta Fraternity

Purdue University ◆ West Lafayette, Indiana

[www.purdue-phi.net](http://www.purdue-phi.net) ◆ May 2021



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

### Indiana Theta During the Year of the COVID!

Dear Brothers:

The Year of the COVID has been challenging, but rewarding. Despite rush being done virtually, as well as the pledge training, the actives have recruited 30 pledges this school year. I still haven't figured out how they did it!

#### Actives in the House

We cut back our summer room renovations because we didn't know how many actives and pledges would be living in the house next fall. It looks like we will only have a slight drop-off and maybe the same number as this year, which is amazing. The chapter had three cases of COVID this semester, but fell below the number that would have forced the house to be locked down for two weeks. We got lucky, and the actives did a good job.

#### Renovations

This summer we will renovate three rooms, with the last three rooms being renovated in 2022. The schedule is being delayed one year because of COVID. That will complete all the residential room renovations and room furniture upgrades (thank heaven!).

We will be completing the exterior chapter house painting and trim repair project this summer with just the back of the house needing to be finished. One of our three chimneys will also be dismantled during this process. We have three chimneys from the original 1910 construction. This chimney has been leaking water during rain and snowstorms and is not functional. We are tired of repairing room, wall, and ceiling damage, so it's time for the chimney to go. The other two chimneys are functional with one venting our heating boilers and the other one being used by the fireplace in the Formal Room. Every year is a little crazy, but COVID makes this year even more crazy.

#### Phi Open

It appears our Phi Open Golf Outing will be back to normal attendance levels this summer, so sign up on our website after Mike Fritton sends out his email blast. I hope everyone is having a great and healthy year!

Yours in the Bond,

Gary Batesole '77

"1418"

President

Indiana Theta of Phi Delta Theta Alumni Association

## CHAPTER UPDATE



### Top at IFC in New Member GPA and Community Service

We are extremely proud of how our chapter ranked in Purdue's semesterly reports on campuses, GPA, New Member GPA, Community Service Hours, and Philanthropy Dollars. This past fall, we had a GPA of 3.24, which is 9<sup>th</sup> in the IFC, and a new member GPA of 3.52, which is 1<sup>st</sup> place in all of IFC.

We raised \$6,500 for ALS, placing us 5<sup>th</sup> in IFC, and gave 2,257 community service hours, which is the highest on campus by more than 800 hours!



### Spring 2021 Recruitment

Due to the ongoing pandemic, recruitment continues to look different. This semester, we were not allowed to have any potential new members inside the house, or have an in-person bid dinner, during the recruitment process. However, we were allowed to have small in-person events at Purdue facilities, as long as the Purdue Greek communities COVID positivity rate was less than 2%. Despite all of these restrictions and another primarily virtual recruitment cycle, we were still able to get 16 new Phikeia.



### New Benches Grace Back Patio

During finals week last semester and over winter break, new benches were being built on the backside of the house along the back patio. **Drew Whiteaker** and **Jack Phelps** put in lots of work to get these benches designed and built. The benches enclose the area and provide privacy from the traffic of State Street. The benches are currently bare, but as the weather warms up, we plan to have eight different sororities paint different sections of the bench to really bring the area to life.

## PHILANTHROPY: BROTHERS GIVE BACK

The brothers at the house took to **Instagram** to give a shout out to a philanthropy partner. They wrote: "Huge thank you to our volunteers at **@secondchancedogshelter** this afternoon! We love partnering with you guys, and thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve our community!"

Despite the many challenges of the semester, Philanthropy Chair **Jack Williams** raised over \$6,000 for the Live Like Lou Foundation. He writes: "Thank you to everyone who participated in our fundraiser and helped us surpass our goal!"



## YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

### Kitchen Gets Much-Needed Facelift

Over winter break, we invested some of your donations in a much-needed facelift to our kitchen. It is a commercially rated and inspected kitchen with the ability to feed up to 100 people per meal. We haven't painted it for many years and the ceiling paint was peeling (not good for food flavoring). There are eleven lights, only four of which were working.

We had the ceiling scraped, sanded, and painted with a coat of sealer and two additional coats of paint. The walls were cleaned (no before pictures for your benefit), sealed, and a few coats of paint applied. We replaced all the overhead lights with LED lights and replaced all the lights above the stove. I think Dave the Cook may have to apply a SPF50 sunscreen and wear sunglasses from now on.

We also had to replace two 3" brass water valves and a 3"

backflow valve system in the boiler room, and replace several light fixtures. Now we can see when the pipes burst and flood the room (don't worry, the two drains still work). After three years and about \$20,000 worth of 3" copper pipe and valve replacements, I think we are good to go for a few more years in the boiler room (fingers crossed).

We are in the planning stages for the final residential room renovations and hope to do four rooms this summer and the final two big end rooms in 2022. That will complete the room renovations for all twenty residential rooms. We're sure there will be more to fix after that! Thank you for your gifts that made this renovation possible!



## CHAPTER GRAND



**Dennis "Denny" C. Blind '55**  
We regret to inform you of the passing of Brother Dennis "Denny" C. Blind '55 on Thursday, October 29, 2020. Our sincerest condolences go out to Denny's friends and family at this time.

**Tom A. Hedenreich, Sr. '55**  
Tom A. Hedenreich, Sr. '55 entered Chapter Grand this past February. Tom (also known as "Toad") was in the same class as **Neil Armstrong '55** and was a life-long friend of Neil's and his brother **Dean Armstrong '57**. Tom's two sons, **Tom (Toad, Jr.) '78** and **Jay (Tadpole) '81** also graduated from Purdue and were members of Phi Delta Theta.



## STAY CONNECTED TO INDIANA THETA



[purdue-phi.net](http://purdue-phi.net)

Latest Theta news and events,  
photo archives and directory



[Facebook.com/  
PurduePhiAlumni/](https://www.facebook.com/PurduePhiAlumni/)  
Social media community for  
alumni of Indiana Theta



[Instagram.com/purduephidelts](https://www.instagram.com/purduephidelts/)  
Keep up with House philanthropy,  
community & fun

# BENJAMIN HARRISON PRESIDENTIAL SITE

## Help Keep the Flag Flying

The 1874 Harrison home – now an official presidential site – has announced a multimillion dollar upgrade and expansion. Since October 5, 1965, Phi Delta Theta has been supplying the U.S. flags that fly over that presidential home. That gift and tradition will continue in perpetuity by an act of the Phi Delta Theta General Council more than 50 years ago. As the grounds at Brother Harrison's 1874 Indianapolis home teems with construction, awareness is being raised for the remarkable achievements of America's "Centennial President," brother Benjamin Harrison. We Phi Deltas would like to honor our presidential brother with a gift during this renovation.

**Will you join us in raising funds to build a 100-foot tall Centennial Flagstaff where 30' x 50' U.S. flags will wave in perpetuity through the continuing bequest of our fraternity? Help us honor our brother, President Benjamin Harrison, and keep the flag flying!**

Displayed near the base of the Centennial Flagstaff presented by Phi Delta Theta will be our country's three Founding Documents: the U.S. Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, and the Bill of Rights. Please make a Centennial Gift of \$100 or more today to fund Flagstaff's design, construction, and installation.

The mast, a gift of Phi Delta Theta,

### Phi Delt Flag to soar from Centennial Flagstaff each Founder's Day



By special arrangement, the flag of Phi Delta Theta will wave from the Centennial Flagstaff annually each Founder's Day, March 15. The Phi Delt flag, adopted in 1896, displays our azure and argent (blue and silver) colors, our letters, and white stars – one for each of our immortal six founders.

will tower over the grounds, displaying our perpetual gift from 1965 – the nation's Stars and Stripes – in a striking 50' x 30' size. It will be spotlight-illuminated 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year.

### Matching Gifts

The Phi Delta Theta Foundation will match dollar-for-dollar the first \$25,000 in contributions. Please give generously!

### Recognition and Giving Levels

All donating brothers will be recognized in The Scroll of Phi Delta Theta at the conclusion of the campaign. In addition, contributors at the \$1,000 Old Glory Level and higher will have their names displayed on the Tribute Tablet located nearby the Centennial Flagstaff, presented by Phi Delta Theta.

### Giving Levels

Presidential / \$10,000  
Founder / \$5,000  
Old Glory / \$1,000  
Sword & Shield / \$500  
Centennial / \$100

And so, we ask, will you now join your brother Phis to honor your fraternity and your Phi Delt Brother Benjamin Harrison – America's Centennial President with a gift of \$100 or more to our 501(c)3 Charitable Foundation for President Benjamin Harrison "Keep the Flag Flying" campaign?

Questions or comments about the "Keep the Flag Flying" Campaign? Visit [phideltflag.org](http://phideltflag.org).

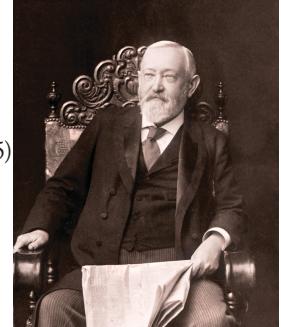
### Contact:

Bob Biggs (Georgia Southern '76)  
Executive Vice President & CEO Emeritus (Fraternity), President Emeritus (Foundation)  
Phone: 513-523-6345 Ext. 227  
[bob@phideltatheta.org](mailto:bob@phideltatheta.org)

Stan Cuppy (Indiana Gamma, Butler '78)  
Campaign Gifts Director  
Cell: 317-590-4015  
[stancuppy@att.net](mailto:stancuppy@att.net)

Campaign Organization:  
Phillip S. "Skip" Kappes (Indiana Gamma, Butler '45)

Campaign Chairman  
[phillipkappes@outlook.com](mailto:phillipkappes@outlook.com)



*Benjamin Harrison*

Mark Duffin  
(Indiana Gamma, Butler '79)

Campaign Communications Co-Chair  
[mark@duffin.ws](mailto:mark@duffin.ws)

Chris Wirthwein (Indiana Gamma, Butler '79)  
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[chris@wirthwein.com](mailto:chris@wirthwein.com)

Mark Kappes - Indiana Theta (Purdue '77)  
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Gary Batesole - Indiana Theta (Purdue University '77)  
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[gbatesole@gmail.com](mailto:gbatesole@gmail.com)

Eric Scudder (Indiana Delta, Franklin '88)  
Campaign Design Director & Web Development  
[eric@scuddercreative.com](mailto:eric@scuddercreative.com)

Keep the Flag Flying Campaign  
Phi Delta Theta Foundation  
General Headquarters  
2 South Campus Avenue  
Oxford, OH 45056-1801



## ALUMNI UPDATES

### Phi Delta Theta Purdue Hijinks: Read Your Brothers' Stories And Share Your Own

What were the best nicknames you called your brothers and how did they come about? When's the last time you saw an Indiana Theta Chapter brothers in person? Who were you with, where were you, and what was the occasion? Do you have a photo from that day? What do you remember about the top social event the year you graduated? What was Phi Delta Theta known for during your time at Purdue?

These were some of the questions we asked this spring. Read on to find out how other Indiana Theta Chapter of Phi Delta Theta alumni answered.

**Joe Fuller '57** ([joe.fuller@prodigy.net](mailto:joe.fuller@prodigy.net)) remembers: "When I was a freshman at Purdue in 1953-54, **Neil Armstrong** told me he had never seen the 500 mile race. So I drove us to Indianapolis in May of 1954 and we stayed overnight at my house the night before the race. We then went to the race and drove back to Lafayette that evening. Neither of us knew he would later become the first man to walk on the moon. Life sure has its surprises."

**Bob Bowen '62** ([bob@bowenengineering.com](mailto:bob@bowenengineering.com)) says, "My nickname in the pledge class was "Sh\*t Bird." I think it was because I was the coolest pledge. My lawyer, Bob Lowe, calls me "Dr. Sh\*t Bird Sir."

Bob says that after graduation he went to work for the W. M. Lyles Co, in California, where he traveled the state building waste water treatment plants and also worked on the San Luis Canal in Central California. After that, he started his own company, Bowen Engineering Corporation, which is still in business 54 years later. His son Doug runs the company today, and Bob is back at Purdue, where he's been teaching civil engineering for twelve years.

"Being a Phi was a game changer for me," he says. "I developed self-confidence and made some life-long friends. It shrunk the size of the university and I learned how to live with and get along with some wonderful people. I have done a lot of business with several of my fraternity brothers. We are traveling to the Columbia Gorge in June and Bordeaux in September with my

pledge class."

As for favorite memories, he says, "I remember the comradery, and the two story outhouse for our homecoming display that was rejected by the homecoming judges because it offended their sensibilities. But most of all I remember the leadership that I saw in the house. While I was at Purdue, we won the Grand Prix, and were IFC intramural champs. I was on the house championship volleyball team. My heroes were **Jim Wurster '59**, **Bob Lowe '59**, **Bob Smitson '58** (chapter president), **Syd Steele '61** (chapter president), **Frank Seipker, Bob Weist E'62**, **Roger Slusher '61**, **Gary Batesole '77**, and **Mike Sears '61**. I still see all of those guys today, and we are fast friends."

Bob says, "I am on the National Foundation Board of Directors, along with **Jay Ihenfeld '74**, which is quite an honor. Phi Delt has been a huge part of my life. I would not be where I am today had it not been for Phi Delta Theta."

His grandson, **Bryce Bowen**, will be coming to Purdue in the fall of '22. "He is definitely a winner," Bob says. "Ain't life grand!"

**Stephen Cox '69** ([scox2@cox.net](mailto:scox2@cox.net)) says, "Well, everyone seemed to have a nickname in the '60s. Wedge because it is the simplest tool. Wild Bill because he was. Soulman (me) because I liked soul music. Crazy Sam given to him by



the actives. Bubbles was a girlfriend's nickname because of her large 'overhanging chest muscles.' Mad Dog was shared by several."

Looking back at "big social events" while he was at the house, he says, "Avoiding the

draft was a big event in that era."

He adds: "Right before finishing classes in my last semester, I found out my draft lottery number was 96. That insured I would be inducted in the military. Proactively, I immediately contacted the Air Force recruiter. He told me to go get a flight physical at the Air Force base. Right after that I was on my way to pilot training. Now I have completed 50 years of flying. Air Force, American Airlines, and finally private charter jets."

He says that "PDT was known for the First Nighter and parties at Charlie Farmers place, a bonfire event in the countryside. We did a lot of Hairy Buffalo parties where everyone brought a fifth of something and dumped it in a large punch bowl for partaking."

"The Phi brotherhood taught me the value of fraternity and loyalty to the shared brotherhood," he said "The social events we planned and executed will always be remembered."

Stephan recently caught up with **Jack Menaugh '70** on a layover in Naples Fla. in November 2020. "We watched the FB game at his house."

**Pepper Burruss '76** ([pepperburruss@gmail.com](mailto:pepperburruss@gmail.com)) remembers many of his pledge brothers by their nicknames: Nurd, Ruby, Slick, Bear, Budda. "I have no idea how they came about...they likely pledged with them," he says.

Pepper says that while he doesn't remember the top social event of his senior year, he does remember his date — his future wife. **Mike Beuthin '75** married her older sister and set me up on a blind date with her in 1973."

He says that the house was known as "a bit of an animal house (had the pit out front)" when he was there. He says that during opening week, they would hang a sign "Frosh Women Register Here" that was "intended for little sisters" ...but some newbie parents would inevitably walk a daughter up to the front door as they were checking in to campus.

**Marc Mannella '83** ([n584mc@hotmail.com](mailto:n584mc@hotmail.com)) remembers one particular nickname in the

## ALUMNI UPDATES



ABOVE: In 2019, Steve Slonaker '75, Jim Judson '76, Gary Thomas '76, Bill Green '76 and Gary Batesole '77 reunited for a football weekend to watch Maryland play Purdue, and see the Armstrong library.

house while he was there. **"Bob 'Shoes' Hofmann '83** was as a reference to Jamie 'Shoes' Huffman who lost a shoe on the court in his first nationally-televised playing time while playing at Michigan State alongside

Magic Johnson."

Today, he sees **Bob Hofmann '83** and **Stu Cummings '82** somewhat regularly.

Looking back at his time in the house, he says, "I think we were considered a fun house with a group of great folks. We didn't take ourselves too seriously, but we weren't the Animal House either. We didn't harp on academics, but we had several brothers who were excelling in difficult academic endeavors. There were lots of engineering students. We had big, fun parties and mixed a lot with sororities. We were very visible being located right across from Stewart Center. People got to see the good, the bad and the ugly from a close distance. Thankfully, we were known more for good than bad and we hardly ever got ugly with anyone."

**Steve Samplinski '92** ([thesamplinskis@aol.com](mailto:thesamplinskis@aol.com)) shared this photo: "This was taken during Spring Break 1991 in

South Padre Island, Texas. The brothers in the photo (left to right) are **Erik Bakk Hansen '94**, **Steve Samplinski '92**, **John Helliwell '93**, and **John Bobey '91**. As you can see, we had a local beach vendor give us Phi Delta Theta temporary tattoos with India ink. There must have been 10-15 brothers that made the trip from Purdue to South Padre Island, which made it so much fun. This trip was one of my favorite memories!"



## A PHI DELTA THETA LOVE STORY

Plenty of us had romantic flings back at Purdue; some of us even discovered our other halves in part because of Phi Delta Theta. **Don Green '69** and his lovely wife have just such a love story. We reached out to learn about their Phi Delta Theta-fueled romance, here's what he had to say.

### When and where did you first meet your wife and how long have you been together?

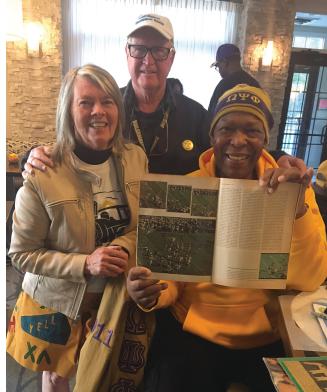
I met that beautiful Purdue cheerleader at a Phi Delt Pi Phi trade party. We have been together for 55 years now.

### What Phi Delta Theta events or social occasions do you remember enjoying with her?

Opening night with the Buckinghams in the Phi Delt parking lot, before the Buckinghams were famous. The Toga party at the house, as well. Those were so fun. Did the alligator on the basement floor.

### Do you and your wife still meet up with any couples you knew through Phi Delta Theta?

**Mike '69 and Marie McCall** just visited us in Texas. **Tom '69 and Ilsa**



**Watters** and my wife and I have traveled to Canada, Wyoming, California, and Texas a few times. Also, our pledge class hosts a reunion every odd year. We will be back this year God and Covid willing.

### Do you have any photos you can share of you two back at Purdue and now?

This one's special, in the first picture, that's Jackie and I with the great Leroy Keys signing

Jackie's *Sports Illustrated* from when he and Purdue beat Notre Dame in 1967 at Notre Dame in South Bend. The picture shows Leroy running and Jackie cheering for him. It was a 50-yard run. Leroy says he can name all the Purdue blockers and some of the Notre Dame tacklers in the photo!! In Spicewood, Texas, Father Jario Lopez married us again on our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - January 24, 1969 to 2019. She's still beautiful! We honeymooned in San Francisco and Winter Park, Colorado.

### Do you or one of your brothers have a love story that you know began with Purdue Phi Delta Theta? Email us at [alumninews@affinityconnection.com](mailto:alumninews@affinityconnection.com).