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Latest Theta news and events at your fingertips!



# The Purdue Phi

Indiana Theta Chapter ◆ Phi Delta Theta Fraternity
Purdue University ◆ West Lafayette, Indiana
www.purdue-phi.net ◆ September 2020

# CHAPTER UPDATE

# **How Indiana Theta is Meeting COVID-19 Guidelines**

Brothers:

Indiana Theta has undergone numerous changes over the summer in order to account for COVID-19 as we welcome Active Brothers back to the House. It's certainly going to be strange for a semester or two, but it will work.





This summer, we finished renovating all of the rooms on the first and second floors of the Chapter House, as well as part of the third, to create suites with individual bedrooms and a common area in the middle. Since we have converted about three quarters of the rooms into suites, we are easily able to meet COVID-19 guidelines that allow only one person per bedroom, or two beds at a minimum of ten feet apart. As a result of these upgrades, we were able to fill the House to its normal occupancy, while many other fraternities were forced to reduce occupancy to meet the strict guidelines.

It looks like other fraternities have taken notice of what we are doing; several have begun fundraising efforts in order to convert their old rooms into suites, but they are still several years away from raising the money to afford

renovations. It's great to know that we're leading the way in fraternity housing renovations. Plus, this should help our future rush parties.

The Actives' meals are prepared by Campus Cooks, a nationwide food service company that serves the Greek market. Campus Cooks has developed a comprehensive COVID-19 protocol for meal preparation.

The House was thoroughly cleaned before undergraduates moved in this fall. We purchased two sanitation foggers and four hand sanitizer dispensers (one per floor) for use in the House. Proper cleaning protocols have been distributed to the Active Officers.

Because of COVID-19 restrictions enforced by Purdue and West Lafayette, I'm afraid that we cannot allow alumni or their guests into the Chapter House this semester. Unfortunately, all Homecoming festivities have been canceled. Hopefully, the Founder's Day Dinner and Grand Prix Weekend in April will still be held; stay tuned for further updates.

Yours in the Bond,

Gary Batesole '77 President

Indiana Theta of Phi Delta Theta Alumni Association

### **2020 PHI OPEN**

## The COVID-19 2020 Phi Open was a Great Success!

Not only did we fill all 100 places, but no one got sick! The golf course used precautions for the Open: carts had plastic screens between the riders, and lunch came in a box. Everyone had a fantastic COVID time.

Hopefully, next year we'll be back to normal, and we'll see you there!



### **CHAPTER GRAND**

## Dean A. Armstrong '57







Phi Delt **Dean A. Armstrong '57**, younger brother to astronaut **Neil Armstrong '55**, passed away on May 23, 2020 at St. Luke's Hospital in Marion, Kansas at the age of 85. Dean was instrumental in the founding of the Phi Lodge's "Neil A. Armstrong Library" and donated many items relating to Neil for all of Indiana Theta's brothers to enjoy. Dean, along with **Russ Wurster '57** dedicated the Neil A. Armstrong Library in 2018 at the Founder's Day Dinner and later celebrated for several hours at Harry's after dinner.

Last November, he got together with his fraternity brothers to donate more items and historical newspapers to the library. He especially wanted to present the "World Championship of Farting" record album to Russ Wurster at the dinner. His brother Neil had won the album/trophy on the aircraft carrier "Essex" on his way home from the Korean War. It is now on display in the Armstrong Library.

Dean was born on Feb. 22, 1935 in Jefferson, Ohio. He was the son of Stephen K. and Viola L. (Engel) Armstrong. After graduating in 1953, he served his country in the United States Army. He went on to earn a

Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering from Purdue University, and then a Master of Business Administration from the Harvard University School of Business.

Dean was the plant manager at General Motors before moving to Kansas with his wife Marilyn and his family in 1978. He joined his second cousin Richard Teichgraber as owner of International Petroleum Services. After selling his share of International Petroleum Services, Dean purchased the Florence State Bank where he served as president and owner. Dean owned several other businesses, including Inlow Foam, Marion Insurance Company, Florence Funeral Home and a restaurant.

He married a second time to Kathryn Park in September of 1988. He was very involved in the Florence Chamber of Commerce and with the Indiana Theta Chapter. He was especially instrumental in helping to encourage and develop business in his area. He was a trusted advisor and friend to many in the region and around the world. He was preceded in death by his parents; sons Neil A. and Jay Armstrong; brother Neil Alden Armstrong; and niece Karen Armstrong.

### **ALUMNI NEWS**

#### **Send in Your Update Today**

Thanks to these brothers for responding to our recent alumni email survey! Over and over, we hear about how Indiana Theta made a lifelong difference for brothers. But we want to hear your stories. Represent your decade - tell us about your favorite restaurant, best campus memory, Phi Delt friends you still see. Your stories are what keep us connected. It's easy to submit an update - just head over to our alumni website at purdue-phi.net and click the "Submit an Update" tab.

We asked alumni to weigh in about their time at Phi Delt. What meant the most? What did they take with them? These brothers agree - it's a place to call home, and brotherhood for life.

Stephen Cox '69 (scox2@cox.net) recently celebrated 50 years as an aviator. He remembers his time at Indiana Theta fondly, especially visits to the Pig & Whistle.

John Menaugh '70 (johnmenaugh@msn.com) says that the Phi Delt experience gave him lifelong brothers and friends. "I learned more from the brothers and friendships than I did going to class!" he says. His favorite place in West Lafayette was The Pig and Whistle, and his

favorite traditions were Homecoming and Miami Triad. He retired from DuPont in 2012 after 35 years, and credits learning leadership in the Indiana Theta house with his successful career. Since retirement, he moved to Naples, Florida, with his wife, Leslie. "If it weren't for Indiana Theta and the brothers, I would not have made it through college," he says. "I really, really appreciate the experience."

Thomas Luken '72 (lukenmt@aol.com) just turned 70 in June, and has been retired 12 years. He says the most valuable part of his Phi Delt experience was, "the help I received in class. Brothers helped me graduate." He says some of his favorite memories from those days are going to football games in Ross Ade Stadium.



# Phi Open, house renovations, and great news about the annual fund – inside!

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#### **CHAPTER UPDATE**

### Fall 2020 Indiana Theta Update from the Undergrads

#### Recruitment

Due to the ongoing pandemic, recruitment this semester needed to be adapted to abide by both Purdue University and Tippecanoe County health guidelines. Instead of holding large group events, we set up individual 30-minute one-on-ones between brothers and potential members to show them around Phi Lodge and get to know each other. This resulted in 18 new Phikeia, pictured here! While we had to forego the traditional steak bid dinner, we were still able to hold a socially distanced bid dinner at the Purdue Intramural Fields.

#### **Brotherhood**

With COVID-19 restrictions in place, many of our traditional fall events have been canceled. Our new Brotherhood Chair, Ian Smith, worked to come up with events that follow guidelines while still allowing for bonding. Ian organized game nights where brothers play poker and other games, and house grill nights on Fridays, where we grill burgers and ribs. We plan to continue these events throughout the semester.



#### **COVID-19 Policies**

Sanitization is a top priority at Phi Lodge. The chapter is taking the threat of COVID-19 seriously and has implemented new policies to prevent the spread of the virus. These steps include placing hand sanitizer stations at every entrance to the Lodge and implementing additional sanitizing procedures for high-contact areas such as bathrooms and door knobs.

We also implemented a new guest policy to allow only one guest per brother in the house. Guests must sign in when entering the house and have their temperature taken. This sign-in policy allows us to provide Purdue with a list of any guests present at the house in the case of a positive test result from any of our brothers.

Unfortunately, one brother tested positive for Coronavirus on Sunday, September 13. As soon as we received the positive test result, we began working with the university to keep everyone

safe. The affected brother was moved into quarantine, and all brothers were alerted of the situation. We provided Purdue with our guest list which allowed them to notify any individuals who may have come in contact with the virus. All in-house brothers were tested on Tuesday, September 15, and all tests came back negative. The brother who tested positive has experienced no symptoms and will complete his quarantine period in a few days.



#### We've created a Facebook page for the Indiana Theta of Phi Delta Theta Alumni Association!

Like our page to stay in the loop on the latest alumni and chapter news and event details. Use the page to reconnect with old friends and to make new ones, and as a place to share your best fraternity stories, memories and photos.

Like us at: www.facebook.com/PurduePhiAlumni/