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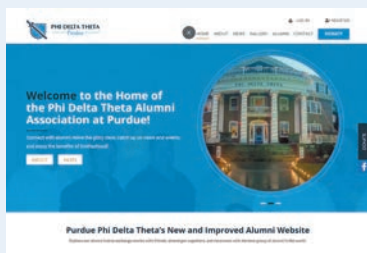
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ON THE WEB

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and events
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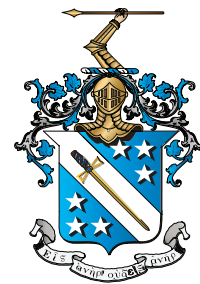


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If you're not receiving your copy, send an email to our alumni relations firm at alumninews@affinityconnection.com

The Purdue Phi

Indiana Theta Chapter ◆ Phi Delta Theta Fraternity
Purdue University ◆ West Lafayette, Indiana
www.purdue-phi.net ◆ March 2023



UNDERGRADUATE HOUSE UPDATE

"Water, water, everywhere . . ."

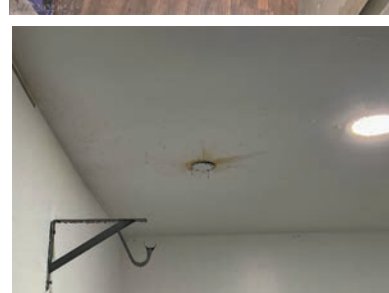
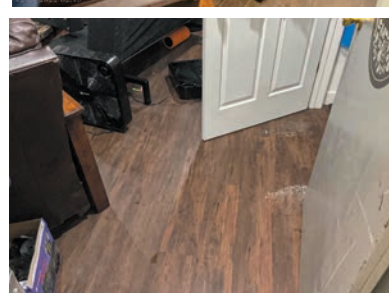
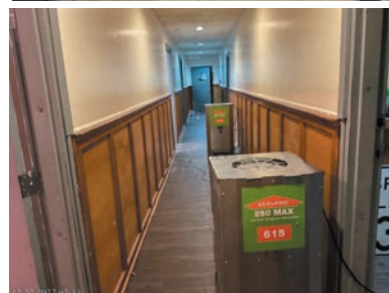
Well, we've had some excitement over the past couple of weeks. The Monday night after Christmas a sprinkler head in one of room #18's bedrooms partially failed and leaked water into the room. It also leaked into room #17, but not as badly. While no furniture was destroyed, four mattresses were waterlogged. The 3rd floor hallway in the new part of the House was soaked and it leaked down into the 2nd floor hallway, the 1st floor hallway and a few puddles into the Dining Room. The water also got into a few other rooms (only in the new part of the House, not the old part) but there was no damage, although the flooring will have to be replaced.

The West Lafayette Fire Department rushed over and turned off the water before the situation could get any worse. ServPro came over until 2:30 am Tuesday morning and sucked up all the water and placed dehumidifiers on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd floors. The next day Servpro collected all the bedding and clothes that got wet and cleaned them. We have replaced the mattresses as well. All furniture that got wet feet were cleaned and sanitized that week. All the flooring was torn up and will be left that way until all of the floors are dry. ServPro tore out drywall that got wet, especially the bedrooms in room #18 and #10. There were many 12" high cut-outs of the drywall in other rooms and they removed baseboards elsewhere so that the areas could dry out. The drywall company has been able to replace all the drywall and do a "tape and mud" finish as well as repainting the new drywall.

With supply chain issues, we may not be able to get the replacement flooring for at least a month, probably a little more.. So, our first idea is not to replace the flooring until Summer Break. Otherwise, we'll have to move out everyone who is affected and take a couple of weeks to reinstall the flooring and then move them back into their rooms. By not replacing the flooring as soon as we are able, we eliminate moving guys into other rooms and then moving them back into their rooms. A little inconvenient, but not bad.

It could have been a lot worse as the West Lafayette Fire Department and ServPro did a great job.

Gary Batesole



Meet Our New Chapter Advisor

I've just taken over the role of Chapter Advisor from Ron Reehling.

First, a note of thanks to Ron. Ron has served as both the Chapter Advisor and Faculty Advisor for the last decade! We all owe a debt of gratitude to Ron for his commitment.

My Indiana Theta bond number is 1494, a 1980 mechanical engineering graduate. Phi Delta Theta created some of my deepest, life-long friendships. It amazes me that even after years apart, the personal connections always seem to instantly come back. For me, the House also played a fortunate role in launching a successful corporate career.

About two years ago, my wife and I realized it was time to downsize. For most people in that situation, it's also usually a move to a southern warmer climate. We did the exact opposite. After 21 years of living on Lake Lanier in Georgia, we bought a house about a mile away from the Purdue football stadium. Now, instead of driving 10 hours each way to see a Purdue sporting event, we can just walk. Lafayette is also a refreshing and friendly change of pace from Atlanta's hectic lifestyle and traffic.

There's one other great side benefit of



having a house just off the Purdue campus. I've seen a lot of fellow Purdue Phi alumni as they come back for campus events!

After just a few weeks of being Chapter Advisor, I've realized how different the environment is for today's Phi's. As I vividly recall, during my time in the Phi Lodge,

we literally had no rules or supervision - and we "creatively" took full advantage of that. It's now completely the opposite situation. In addition to the National organization's strict edicts, the university has created an incredibly tight set of policies that put limits on virtually every activity and function. As Chapter Advisor, I can't talk about how we used to do things in the "good old days." That world doesn't exist anymore.

But despite that, there's great news. So far, my impression is that the current occupants of 503 State (or now "503 Mitch Daniels"), are thriving in today's campus environment. They strike me as an impressive group of young men with solid chemistry. I've watched them carrying on the Purdue Phi tradition in a way that all alums can be proud of.

And, I'm also grateful to be working with a very strong Housing Corporation and Chapter Advisory Board. Should make the Chapter Advisor role

pretty simple!

If you find yourself headed back to campus or just want to chat about the current state of the House, feel free to get in touch anytime. You can reach me at jimstoddart@mac.com.

Find many more updates on our website, www.purdue-phi.net, and share your own! Some of these submissions had to be edited to fit in these pages, so you can read the full versions on our website as well.

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Keep up with House philanthropy, community & fun

CHAPTER GRAND

Carl Mathews '75

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of **Carl Mathews '75** into Chapter Grand. We extend our deepest sympathies to all family and friends of Carl. Read on for his obituary.

Obituary and photo courtesy of Legacy.com.

Carl E. Mathews, 68, of St. Joseph, passed away on Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2022, at his home.

Carl was born on Oct. 12, 1953, to Frank and Mary Rita (Brice) Mathews in Gary, Ind. He graduated from Griffith High School and then continued his education at Purdue University, earning his master's degree. Carl worked as an electrical engineer for many years before his retirement.

Carl was a member at St. Joseph Catholic Church and volunteered for Trinity Lutheran Church's food pantry. In his spare time, he



enjoyed rollerblading and cheering on the Purdue Boilermakers.

Carl is survived by his children, Anne Harvey of Frankfort, Ill., and Mary (Joshua Kettley) Mathews of Ann Arbor; grandchildren, Oscar Harvey and Mateo and Margot Kettley; siblings, Peggy (Darryl) Holst of Beverley Shores, Ind., Tommy (Ces) Mathews of Downers Grove, Ill., Jack Mathews of Portland, Ore., Brenda (Jeff) Parry of Michigan City, Ind., Alan (Judy) Mathews of Orlando, Fla., Irene Bowers of Lakewood, Ohio, and Valerie (Bill) Warren of Chesterton, Ind.; stepmother Barbara Mathews; and his feline companion, Ghost.

Carl was preceded in death by his parents and siblings Sheila Brady, Maureen Roberts and Jheri Walsworth.

BROTHERHOOD

Here is how the brotherhood benefits if we all stepped up.



With the beginning of a new school year comes a new class of Phi Delta Theta brothers. Needless to say, our brotherhood is constantly growing!

Thanks to donations of both time and money by our brothers and alumni, we are able to keep the brotherhood strong throughout the years. We have put together a list of benefits that brothers, current and future, are able to enjoy when we choose to give back.

- 1) **Networking:** Fraternities have the ability to form connections like no other group. With members of all ages and stages of life, there is always a brother with the knowledge needed to help in any situation. A good chapter always keeps in touch with their alumni.
- 2) **Lifelong Friends:** Not only are they able to help, but brothers are able to form a special bond through shared traditions. After countless professional and social events spent together, connections like these are often strong enough to last a lifetime.
- 3) **Professional Skills:** Not only does the fraternity help us form bonds, but it teaches us vital skills that will be crucial to future career success. Many alumni cite these skills as their top reason for giving back to the fraternity!
- 4) **Social Events:** No matter how old you are, revisiting the old 'stomping grounds' to meet up with your old college buddies is always a good time! With the Indiana Theta Chapter, there will always be a group back at Purdue to visit. Whether it be homecoming, a football game, or an alumni reunion, Indiana Theta Chapter alumni and brothers are present.

It is time we thank the fraternity for all it has done for us. We give so that future generations can experience the same great benefits of brotherhood!

1 in 7 men have no friends. Why it matters and how Phi Delta Theta can help

Pundit Scott Galloway reporting on the dearth of friendships in men. (LinkedIn)

In the United States, friendship is on the decline. In fact, in the decades since 1990, the percentage of Americans who say that they have less than three close friends has doubled, going from 16% to 32%. Those reporting no friends at all? That number has risen sharply from 3% to 12%. Thought leader Scott Galloway reports that 1 in 7 men have no close friends at all outside of their family.

This is a problem. Beyond the obvious benefits of friendship — connection, shared memories, someone having your back — there are incredible health benefits attached to having strong friendships.

Robert Waldinger, a professor of psychiatry at Harvard, runs the world's longest study on happiness. He explores the question: "What keeps us healthy and happy as we go through life?"

Waldinger is the fourth director of the longest-running study of adult life. Since 1938, the Harvard Study of Adult Development has been following a group of 724 men through work, home, family and health. Over 80-plus years of the study, some experienced meteoric success, some epic failure. But who was happiest?

"The biggest lesson we learned is that it isn't wealth, fame or hard work that matters.



Good relationships keep us healthier and happier. Period," he said. He added that the healthiest 80-year-olds turned out to be the ones who were most connected in their 50s. Those with good relationships had healthier bodies and clearer minds than their counterparts.

People who do not have vital connections as they walk through life's joys and challenges show marked differences from people with strong friends. In *Bowling Alone*, Robert Putnam posits that participating in even one social organization and forming friendships could cut your odds of dying in the next year in half. A recent report showed that loneliness registers an impact on your well-being similar to that of smoking 15 cigarettes a day and rivals alcohol and smoking as a cause of early death.

Recently, a survey went out to alumni of a fraternity that doesn't have an undergraduate chapter. The survey invited alumni to weigh in about the future of the chapter and the value of reopening the house on their college campus. The questions boiled down to "Why?" What is the value of their chapter — or any Greek organization — in today's culture? One alumnus answered with just one weighted word: camaraderie.

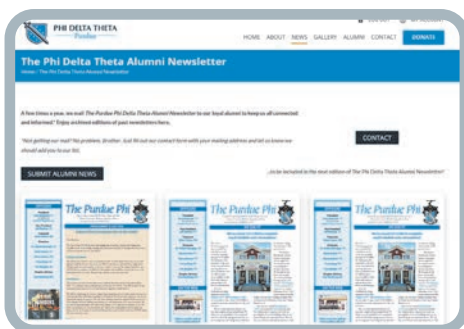
There are hundreds — thousands — of other words to back up that shortest answer. Fraternity groups like this one, and like Phi Delta Theta, are ideal leadership

training grounds, hot spots of philanthropy and mentorship. But Phi Delta Theta's most basic element is also its most valuable: the camaraderie gained during pivotal years forms ironclad friendships that last decades. And while they are making life richer and better, these friendships are actually making us healthier, happier and live longer.

Here's a challenge for us in 2023. Let's buck these statistics. I'll wager someone came to your mind as you were reading this. Reconnect with them — do it this week. Make plans to see a game, or plan a weekend. If travel is not in the cards right now, just keep in touch. Share an old story, or dig up a picture from the good old days. Your friendship — and your health— will thank you.

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If you are looking for a more recent newsletter, head to purdue-phi.net/newsletters/ to view our more recent, and older, dating all the way back to April 2000, newsletters!