

EVENT

Saturday, November 7, 2015

Homecoming vs. Fighting Illini
Details below!

The Purdue Phi

Indiana Theta Chapter ♦ Phi Delta Theta Fraternity
Purdue University ♦ West Lafayette, Indiana
www.purdue-phi.net ♦ Fall / Winter 2015



HOMECOMING 2015

5 Reasons to Come Home for Homecoming!

Join Us on Saturday, November 7, 2015

STOP! Take 2 minutes to consider why you might give up a weekend to return to West Lafayette to celebrate with your fellow Phi Delt brothers. There are five reasons why you won't want to miss this weekend as our Boilermakers take on the Fighting Illini in one of the nation's oldest and most intense rivalries:

1. FOOD, FUN & FESTIVITIES

This is an important weekend for Phi Delta Theta at Purdue. So, we have put together a day of activity at the Phi Lodge to make sure you, your family and your guests have a place to call home and to allow you to reconnect with your brothers.

Schedule of Events:

9:00 a.m.: Brunch at the Phi Lodge

10:00 a.m.: Inaugural presentation of the Neil A. Armstrong Scholarships

Noon: Kickoff v. Illinois

Before & After Game: Tailgate in the fields north of the Co-Rec. Look for the large Phi Delta Theta blue and white flag.

2. INAUGURAL NEIL A. ARMSTRONG SCHOLARSHIPS



Armstrong

Please stop by the Phi Lodge the morning of Homecoming to congratulate the first recipients of the Neil A. Armstrong Scholarships. **Russ Wurster '57**, as a gesture to honor his friend **Neil Armstrong**

'55, has raised money for a permanent fund that would allow scholarships to be perpetually awarded to:

- the Phikeia with the highest GPA
- the active living in the house who best exemplifies the leadership qualities of the "First Man."

Since Neil's Bond Number is 851, the scholarships will be \$851. The remainder of the yearly scholarships will fund the participation of up to 10 actives in the annual Kleberg Emerging Leaders Institute training in Oxford, Ohio, at Miami University. Our own **Jay Ihlenfeld '74** is a trustee of the Phi Delta Theta Foundation and will be helping us set this up beginning next summer.

3. PHI LODGE IS LOOKING GREAT!

Over the last 12 months, we have invested \$70,000 in the Phi Lodge. You will be impressed by what you see:

- New dining tables and chairs custom built by an Amish company in Indiana. They built our furniture to hold up to an "eight hundred pound gorilla dancing on the table tops." The Amish understand 20-year-old men.



- New convection oven, a steamer and a large commercial mixer in the kitchen. We don't want the boys to starve!
- The dining room walls got a fresh coat of paint, and the floor was resurfaced with porcelain tile that looks like slate.
- \$25,000 upgrade to the HVAC system.

- Thanks to **HP Culp's ('77)** design and implementation and Alumni-in-Action's fundraising and labor, we have a newly remodeled basement restroom, now called "HP's Head."
- Newly expanded, resealed and restriped parking lot.



"H.P.'s Head"

4. WE ARE MAKING LEADERS, NOT SCANDALS

Thanks to our undergraduate brothers, we are making headlines. It is not because of scandals, inappropriate videos and social media, hazing or suspensions. We are in the headlines because we are leading the way on the Purdue campus and across Phi Delta Theta nationwide:

- We have 44 brothers living in the house — the most in 10 years — with 64 actives in total.
- We currently have 23 Phikeia — the most in almost 10 years (see page 2)!

Let's show our undergrads that we are proud of the stand they are taking on the Purdue campus and across the nation!

5. BOILER UP FOR THE PURDUE CANNON

At the time of this writing, the Boilermakers are presently 1-6 (ouch!). The Illini are 4-2. It's time to Boiler Up! Come back and cheer on our team to a much-needed win in a rivalry that dates back to 1905 — the first year we took the cannon. Since then, Illinois leads the rivalry 43-41-6. Let's bring the cannon back to Purdue!

FALL 2015 PHIKEIA

Joey Montagano – Naperville, IL
Marketing (Fr.)

Will Bennett – Naperville, IL
Mech. Eng. (Fr.)

Thomas Chen – Irvine, CA
Computer Eng. (Fr.)

Jake Merryman – Chesterton, IN
Exploratory Studies (Fr.)

Parker Ryan – Illiopolis, IL
Pre-Pharmacy (Fr.)

Adam Wang – Newport Beach, CA
Economics, Mech. Eng. (Fr.)

Ryan Kwiatkowski – Scottsdale, AZ
Engineering (Fr.)

Jonathan Bensman –
Bellefontaine, OH
Aerospace Engineering (Soph.)

Jake McFarland – Bedford, OH
Exploratory Studies (Fr.)

Garrett Schoen – Rochester, IN
Exploratory Studies (Fr.)

Patrick Inzerra – Naperville, IL
Marketing (Fr.)

Colin Rice – Newbury Park, CA
Aerospace Engineering (Fr.)

Charlie Williams – LaPorte, IN
Actuarial Science (Fr.)

Michael Reynolds – San Diego, CA
Mechanical Engineering (Fr.)

Jon Ravid – Bloomfield Hills, MI
BME (Fr.)

Luke MacGregor – Indianapolis, IN
Exploratory Studies (Fr.)

Joe Banks – Hudson, OH
Civil Engineering (Fr.)

Richard Kim – Irvine, CA
Finance (Fr.)

Garrett Slosser – San Diego, CA
Finance (Fr.)

Prasanna Janakiraman – Dubai
Biological Engineering (Soph.)

David Frank – Avon, IN
Biochem (Fr.)

Caleb Loman – Avon, IN
Computer Tech. Information (Fr.)

John Martorano – Wrentham, MA
Professional Flight (Soph.)

Edwin Jacobson – Los Angeles
Aerospace Engineering (Soph.)

Jay Gupta – Singapore
Chemical Engineering (Soph.)

CHAPTER REPORT

The State of Our Chapter

By Christopher Schoen '16, Chapter President

As you can see in the list to the left, the fall semester is off to a great start with 23 Phikeia — the most we have had in almost 10 years. You can see a picture of them on our website at purdue-phi.net.

Our chapter is healthy and growing, and we have goals set for continuing to improve our academic standing on campus. At the time of this writing, we are preparing for our upcoming Third Annual Turtle Derby philanthropy to benefit the ALS Association.

Some of our undergraduates are involved in activities that you might find quite interesting. For example, I am currently working in the Purdue Athletic Department as one of 12 marketing and promotions interns.

One of our Phikeia brothers, Colin Rice, was an intern at NASA this past summer before he even stepped foot on the Purdue campus as a freshman.

Austin Dance, another brother, is a turf science major who is presently working as a member of the team that maintains the

Purdue football field.

One of our sophomores, Patrick Devlin, will be working as an auditor intern for Nestlé this coming summer. And two brothers are involved in study abroad programs this year. Mark Stouffer is currently studying in London, and Patrick Welch will be leaving for Spain in December.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for being among the alumni who continue to support our active chapter. If you

Our Chapter at a Glance

- **Active Brothers: 64**
- **Brothers Living in the Lodge: 44 – most in 10 years!**
- **Fall 2015 Phikeia: 23 (listed to the left) – the most in nearly 10 years!**
- **Chapter GPA: 2.85 (goal is 3.00 by end of 2016-17)**
- **Philanthropy: Third Annual Turtle Derby (held Oct. 25) with Pi Beta Phi to benefit the ALS Association and Starkey Hearing Foundation**

are interested in playing a more active role as a mentor to our undergraduates as they prepare for internships and jobs, please email me at president.purduephilidelts@gmail.com.

REUNION NEWS

60 Years and Counting!

On Friday, October 9, four Indiana Theta Phis from the Class of 1953 gather for a reunion. The group included **Jack Earl**, **John Geis**, **Al Lewis** and **George Maley**. Also in attendance was Brother **Gene Bahls '51** along with wives and friends. They met for the day at George Maley's farm.



Remember: This is a significant reunion year for classes ending in 0 and 5. Make plans to reunite with your class for Homecoming. If you have a reunion this year, please tell us about it. Send your reunion story and photos to us at alumninews@affinityconnection.com. Please be sure to include photo captions.

Pictured l-r: Jack Earl '53, John Geis '53, Al Lewis '53 (seated), George Maley '53 and Gene Bahls '51.

A Veterans Day Flyboy Tribute: Mark “Jags” Jagers ’87

As we approach Veteran’s Day, and as we keep the stories of our Indiana Flyboys alive among our alumni, we stop to remember those who have served our country. Brother **Mark Jagers ’87** is one such brother. Mark passed away in 2012 from a rare form of cancer. Before he died, he published a memoir. The Amazon introduction described him this way: “A modern day renaissance man, Mark Jagers tells his story of joining the Air Force, marrying a great girl, flying jets, fatherhood, and attending medical school all against the insurmountable odds of a cancer diagnosis which threatens to cloud his ability to move forward.” Below is a tribute to this brother offered by fellow brothers **Steve Melonides ’88** and **Tim Porter ’87**.

[Steve Melonides ’88](#)

Mark graduated from Purdue in aeronautical and astronautical engineering at the top of his class. He received his commission in the USAF and went on to serve in USAF Space Command.



Phi Lodge bar — called “Uncle Sherwin’s” — during a formal. (L-R: John Haering ’87, Mark Jagers ’87, Mike Pawlicki ’87 and Stephen Melonides ’88)

In the spring of 1989, I went out to visit him in Denver during one my USAF pilot training cross-country flights. Once he saw me in the T-38 Talon trainer, he knew he was in the wrong job. He proceeded to earn his civilian license and show his commanders his flying skills as well as his desire to become a USAF Pilot. As a result, he was given a rare slot at the prestigious ENJJP (EuroNATO Joint Jet Pilot) training school at Sheppard AFB in Wichita Falls, Texas. Again, he finished tops in his class. However, due to budget cuts, they were not giving out fighter assignments at the

time. He ended up getting a C-5 Galaxy to Dover AFB in Delaware.

After a couple years of flying the C-5, Mark came down with a very rare form of cancer called hemangiopericytoma in his gut. The doctors at the Air Force hospital opened him up, closed him back up and told him he had only a few months to live. A few weeks later his second child was born.

He worked his way into an evaluation at MD Anderson in Houston. They tried to do the surgery, but he started bleeding and went through almost 30 pints of blood and a week of induced coma before they allowed him to come around.

After beating two other rounds of leukemia, he decided to go back to school for an engineering master’s degree. It didn’t feel right so he enrolled in medical school, still with the hemangiopericytoma in his gut. AGAIN, he finished tops in his class and became an ophthalmologist. He practiced until he passed away on July 13, 2012.

Mark wrote a book of the experience called “His Grace on a Rollercoaster.” He wrote it during his last six months of living, and his wife Becky had it published after he passed away. It’s available on Amazon, and it’s more amazing than the short snippet I’ve given you here.

He was a great man and dragged me through college kicking and screaming. I owe him a lot.

[Tim Porter ’87](#)

Jags was my roommate for two years at the Phi house, and we did tons together after we graduated. I’m the godfather to his first child Meredith. He’s the godfather to my daughter, Rose. We were in each other’s weddings and got together generally every year to golf, hang out and catch up on life. He stopped in to stay the night with my wife and me in Atlanta on his way to Biloxi, Miss., for some Air Force training. It was during that training that he was originally diagnosed.

His book really is fabulous, and I think would make for a fantastic movie. I’d love for as many people to hear its message as possible. I’ve given many books away to friends and all of them can’t believe its a true story.

I delivered the eulogy at Mark’s funeral back in July of 2012, which contains a bit more info on Mark (i.e., that he was on the Purdue Crew team, played in high school basketball state championship game, was nearly a straight-A student in aeronautical engineering ...). [Go to purdue-phi.net to read it.



Mark’s final picture with his Phi Delt brothers. This photo was taken two months before he passed away. (L-R: Bill Baranyk ’86, Dr. Mark Jagers ’87, Tim Porter ’87 and Stephen Melonides ’88)

A couple of other things to note are that both of his children are Boilermakers. Meredith graduated the year before last in nursing and is in the Navy serving at Walter Reed hospital in D.C. His son, Collin, is a sophomore at Purdue, and I believe he’s studying aero as well.

Interested in making your own tribute to one of our Indiana Theta flyboys or veterans? Follow the instructions below.

Remember Our Flyboys & Veterans

Over the past several months, we have been featuring our Indiana Theta flyboys and veterans in our monthly eLetters. Go to the News section of our website at purdue-phi.net. Read through our lists of flyboys and veterans. If we have missed someone, let us know at alumninews@affinityconnection.com.



2015-16 HONOR ROLL

A few months into our 2015-16 annual fund giving year, we are asking you stop for a moment, go to our website at phi-purdue.net, click on "Donate" in the upper right-hand corner and make a gift that commemorates your Indiana Theta days at Purdue. Thank you to those 25 alumni listed below who have already stepped forward this giving year*!

Life Donors

Robert L. Holloway 1948
 Russell P. Wurster 1957
 James A. Wurster 1959
 Robert L. Bowen 1961

Indiana Theta Legacy Circle (\$1,000+)

Jay V. Ihlenfeld 1974

503 State Street Society (\$503)

Bill Edmundson 1962
 Paul V. Troup III 1963

Founders Circle (\$300-\$502.99)

William R. Reed 1959

The 1848 Society (\$200-\$299.99)

Darryl G. Holst 1969
 Tim L. Keech 1973
 Matthew P. Hartnett 1992

Azure Club (\$100-\$199.99)

James R. Love 1950
 Gordon M. Graham 1956
 Ronald E. Snyder 1956

John M. Tarr 1961

Robert L. Brayton 1965
 William V. Pickart 1967
 James A. Gage 1969
 Donald A. Green 1969
 Forest A. Ritz II 1970
 Randall T. Clark 1981
 Julius V. Perr 1984
 Larry B. Taylor 1986

Argent Club (\$50-\$99.99)

Mark E. Weadick 1960

William D. Bender 1962
 Harry E. Schaefer 1964
 Michael D. Miller USAF, RET 1967
 Matthew D. Phillips 1990

Other (up to \$49.99)

Michael R. Morgenstern 1990

**Gifts received from September 1, 2015, through October 13, 2015.*

Phi Open 2015: What Will They Think of Next?



What do you get when you combine a Saturday in August with four men in Purdue wrestling singlets along with 138 of their Phi Delta Theta brothers and guests on one of the finest university golf courses in the nation? You get the 25th Annual Phi Open.

This, year, on Saturday, August 15, these 142 brothers and friends met to celebrate brotherhood, friendship and some colorful competition. Hats off to our repeat winners — **Rusty Zay '93, Mike Murphy '92, Tim Johnson '93 and Steve Nystedt '92** — who continue to impress us with their costume choices year after year. What will they think of next?

For more photos from the weekend, go to our website at purdue-phi.net.

*Inside:
 – 5 Reasons to Come Home for Homecoming!
 – A Tribute to One of Our Indiana Theta Flyboys
 – The Largest Phikeia Class in Nearly 10 Years!*

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Indiana Theta Chapter ◆ Phi Delta Theta Fraternity
 Purdue University ◆ West Lafayette, Indiana
 www.purdue-phi.net ◆ Fall / Winter 2015

The Purdue Phi!