

CHAPTER GRAND

Our thoughts are with the friends and family of our Phi Delt Brothers.

Capt. **James Blair Long '59** passed away March 19, 2018, at the age of 81. Jim graduated with a degree in aeronautical engineering. He would go on to retire as a captain and pilot with United Airlines.

Jim is survived by his wife, Brenda. He passed away at their home surrounded by loved ones.

Albert "John" Geis '53 passed away this past January at the age of 86. John graduated in 1953 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He would go on to retire in Chapel Hill after starting his own consulting business. He loved international travel, visiting all seven continents. He is survived by his wife, Lou Ann. John will be greatly missed.

We've featured John in a story on page 3 about his "Iron Phi" accomplishment.

LOST

Are You on our List?

Are you getting our monthly emails, packed with news, memories and more, straight in your inbox? You're missing out!

Help us fill in the blanks and add your missing contact information to our database. You'll get great stories and updates like the ones featured in each Phi Delt newsletter.

To sign up, just send a quick note to connect@affinityconnection.com and let our alumni partners know to add you to the Phi Delta Theta at Purdue alumni email list!

The Purdue Phi

Indiana Theta Chapter ♦ Phi Delta Theta Fraternity
Purdue University ♦ West Lafayette, Indiana
www.purdue-phi.net ♦ April 2018



LEGACY SPOTLIGHT

David '88 and Robbie '20 Lynch Reflect on Sharing the Bond of Brotherhood

Back in the mid to late '80s, you could find **David Lynch '88** at the Phi Lodge hanging out in room 5 with the boys, playing in his band with brother Kevin Jones, enjoying endless foosball games, taking part in one of the impromptu Uncle Sherwin evenings, or maybe even devouring a slice of Gooney Bird Pie.

Today, you can still see the same camaraderie and tradition at the Phi Delta Theta house, where David's son, **Robbie Lynch '20**, is now a brother.

"From what I have heard from my dad, it sounds like Phi Delta Theta was a little bit crazier back in the day, but the core qualities that make up this fraternity have not changed, and I think that makes this a pretty special place," Robbie says.

Though David did encourage Robbie to check out Phi Delt, Robbie made the decision to join based on his own gut feelings during rush.

"It was clear that Robbie was really enthusiastic about Phi Delta Theta after his first rush event," David says. "I felt the same way after my first rush party.

"I always had the mindset of picking a house where I fit in most and I [knew] Phi Delta Theta was that place," Robbie adds.

Both David and Robbie feel blessed for the opportunity to form an even deeper bond with each other.

"It's special that we can both share the qualities that make Phi's such great people," Robbie says, adding that he enjoyed having his dad attend his initiation ceremony.

Ever since then, Phi Delt really has served as a great foundation for Robbie. For starters, the chapter places a big emphasis on academic achievement. In fact, Robbie and his fellow



brothers have improved the chapter's GPA every semester since he joined. Nearly all Robbie's close friends are brothers of the fraternity, plus he's gaining valuable leadership and interpersonal skills that are supplementing his coursework as he works

towards a degree in Management.

"I am currently the assistant social here and hopefully will be head social next semester," Robbie says. "This position has taught me responsibility and organizational skills that can be used outside the fraternity."

Though David sees many similarities in his experience compared to Robbie's, he does lament that Robbie won't ever get to try one of his favorite recipes.

"I heard that the kitchen staff lost the recipe for Gooney Bird Pie," he explains. "That was one of my favorites. It makes me sad that Robbie missed out on that."

Though he may never try that favorite of his dad's, Robbie is fortunate to have such a strong connection to Phi Delt's and Purdue's past. When his parents come up for mom and dad's day, he gets to hear some of his dad's stories from college, as well as those from his mom, who was in Kappa Kappa Gamma at Purdue.

For David, those occasional trips back to campus are a treasured opportunity to reconnect, since he hasn't always been able to keep in touch with brothers.

"You never really know who from your Phi Delt days will stick with you as you move out and move on with your family and career," David admits. "I saw a lot of Indianapolis brothers regularly after graduation. I played basketball with Joe Seufert, Greg Bender, and Steve Kirkpatrick for years and had several brothers stop by for a gamer or two back in

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Ensuring the Longevity of Indiana Theta

There are many achievements that VP for Membership **Alec Gehrich '18** is proud of, but chief among those is the fact that he's helping to carry on Indiana Theta's proud tradition. He says that alumni can take comfort in knowing that today's chapter is the same one they know and love.

"Our interests are closely aligned," he explains, referring to undergrads and alumni.

"As actives, we work every day to preserve traditions and ensure the longevity of Phi Delta Theta at Purdue. Years down the line, I hope to return a flourishing chapter that has the same principles that were handed down to me."

It's no wonder that Alec the 2017 First Man Award recipient of a Neil A. Armstrong scholarship. He remarked, "This award serves as a reminder that hard work and sacrifice do not go unnoticed."

Alec will graduate in May and is eager to start his job as a District Sales Manager with Fiat Chrysler Automobiles. Right now, though, he's still VP for Membership and is proud to play a significant role in upholding the chapter's reputation and ensuring that high-achieving, respectable young men are recruited to carry on that legacy for years to come.



"My role largely consists of working closely with the executive positions that involve planning events for the house," he explains. "The positions that I oversee include social, recruitment, and phikeia education among many others."

Alec often serves as a liaison between these chairmen and the President and Vice President of Operations, an experience that's helped him develop valuable leadership skills.

"I have learned how to lead while enabling autonomy for others," he says. "I believe that I have aided in elevating how our chapter is perceived by outside parties and engendering a more positive culture between our own brothers."

The chapter is already seen as a powerhouse on campus, but the actives always strive to make their own mark and advance the fraternity's mission.

"The house has character, is in a great location, and allows members to have personal space when it is needed," Alec says.

But that's barely scratching the surface when it comes to all that Purdue Phis have to offer.

Rattling off other positive attributes, Alec says, "The brothers are from all different backgrounds and bring unique perspectives to every situation. Our academic success is the highest I have witnessed. Our alumni are very supportive, and participation from them only continues to increase. Their generosity

and hard work has benefited everyone associated with this chapter."

When Alec graduates this spring, he'll take with him a treasure trove of memories and hopefully continue to add to that stash.

"PDT has given me the opportunity to make friendships with some of the most loyal people that I have met," Alec says. "The friends I have made here push me to be better each day and never fail to make my life interesting. I cherish the opportunity to spend every day with such a fun group of guys."

Among Alec's fondest memories is the 4th of July (2017) that he hosted the brothers at his home in Rochester, Indiana.

"Everyone who was available came for a great holiday weekend on the lake," he says.

"Our annual camping trips are also a blast," he adds. "They served as a great opportunity to get to know some of the guys I don't usually hang out with."

Spring Formal, of course, earned the top spot in terms of Alec's favorite Phi Delt traditions.

"My favorite annual event is our Spring Formal," he says. "It is particularly special to me because I organized our first formal in many years as a sophomore two years ago, and I have continued to do so year after year. Relocating to a different city for the weekend and getting to experience new things together is always a great time for all the brothers and their dates."

But perhaps the best part of all is just sharing a common bond and goal with his brothers.

"At the end of the day, everyone is here for the same reason," he says. "We all aim to grow personally and have a great time doing it."



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/

LEGACY PROFILE

(Continued from Page 2)

day. These were great times before our bodies became broken bags of torn ligaments, Achilles tears, AC joint separations, and other athletic mishaps. John Montgomery, Steve Larson, and I still have a regular golf game going strong. We have hilarious memories and reminisce about the Phi Lodge frequently. John and Steve have great connections with brothers all over the world."

David is eager to reconnect with others as well. He invites any brother in Indy on a Friday who wants to get a game of golf in to contact one of them!

Get in touch with David at david.lynych@inin.com and Robbie at lynch.robby@comcast.net.

ALUMNI UPDATE



1949 Purdue Phi Initiate Achieves Iron Phi Status

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, Geis 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," Geis said via email. "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."

Geis 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-plus years," Geis said. "It was in 2014 after moving into Carolina Meadows in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 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 Senior Games in 2015. I won first place in four event[s] 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 N.C. 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."

Geis 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.

Geis 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," Geis said. "I also want to add that I found five other Phis in our local retirement community and have organized luncheons every six months since 2015. Zach Hilliard, Development Officer from Phi Delta Theta HQ, 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."

Geis 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," Geis said. "We had as many as 11, but 2015, there were only four."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Founder's Day Reception and Dinner at the Indiana Theta Chapter House

When: Sat., April 14, 2018 - 5:00 to 9:00 P.M.

Schedule of Events:

5:00 p.m.: Meet and Greet

5:30 p.m.: Dedication of the Neil A. Armstrong Library

6:00 p.m.: Dinner

6:30 p.m.: Round Table Discussion of life at the Phi Lodge in the 1950's with Dean Armstrong, Russ Wurster, and Joe Fuller

7:00 p.m.: Induction of the Golden Legionnaire brothers (initiated 50+ years) and Silver Legionnaire brothers (initiated 25+ years)

Plus, tour the Phi Lodge and see all the changes over the past seven years with over \$400,000 in renovations!

Cost: \$25 per person - to be paid at the door

*Business attire preferred

*Brothers only, please

Please RSVP to **David Wiczierzack:**
603-769-7744

vpa.purduephidelts@gmail.com

Don't Miss the Dedication of the Neil A. Armstrong Library

Dean Armstrong, Russ Wurster and Bob Bowen will officially open the Library.

When: April 14th - 5:30 pm, just prior to the Founder's Day Dinner



Phi Open

Birck Boilermaker Golf Complex

When: Sat., August 11, 2018 - 11:00 a.m.

Please join us for a great day of fun. This will be a four-man scramble with a shotgun start played over the Pete Dye redesigned Ackerman-Allen course. If you would like help organizing a foursome, or have other questions, please call **Andy Beasley** at 720-235-5535 or e-mail beasgolf@gmail.com. Singles, pairs

and threesomes can easily be combined with other players. This from chapters other than Purdue are welcome. We will again have prizes for the low scorers, high scorers, long-drivers and pin-seekers. Hole sponsorships are \$50 per hole. Any donations to help offset costs are appreciated. It all goes to the house!

Schedule of Activities

11:00 a.m. ~ Lunch at the Birck Boilermaker Golf Complex Pavilion

1:00 p.m. ~ Shotgun Start

5:30 p.m. ~ Harry's Chocolate Shop ~ Awards and 19th Hole

Cost: \$90 per person if received before July 1st or

\$100 per person after July 1st (including the day of the event)

Cost includes greens fee, cart, lunch and prizes. Make checks payable to: "Phi Delta Theta"

Lodging Options:

Four Points by Sheraton - 765-743-2100 or www.fourpointswestlafayette.com

Purdue Union Club - 800-320-6291 or www.union.purdue.edu/hotel

Hilton Garden Inn - Wabash Landing - 765-743-2100 or www.hiltongardeninn3.hilton.com



PHI DELTA THETA

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Inside:

- **Founders' Day and Annual Phi Open**
(the largest Greek golf tourney at Purdue!) Details
- **Check in with the Current Chapter, Ensuring the Longevity of Indiana Theta**



Visit us on the web at
www.purdue-phi.net

Latest Theta news and events
at your fingertips!

2017-18 HONOR ROLL

Life Donors

Robert Holloway	1948
Russell Wurster	1957
James Wurster	1959
Robert Bowen	1961

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

Bill Edmundson	1962
Robert Weist	1962
Paul Troup	1963
Brian Reichart	1972
Tim Keech	1973
Jay Ihlenfeld	1974
Terry King (IK)	1976
Timothy Quigley (IK)	1976
Peter Bosworth (IK)	1980
Bradley Dickinson (IK)	1980
Jim Stoddart (IK)	1980
Randy Asmus	1982
Andy Beasley	1991

503 State Street Society (\$500-\$999.99)

James Thompson	1956
James Leverenz	1960
Richard Brigden	1961
Robert Taylor	1969
Thomas Burruss	1976
Gary Batesole (IK)	1977
Jeffrey Reising	1977
Tom Tremain	1979
Steven Yapp	1984
David Daniel	1986
Thomas Baryl	1988
David Farnham	1998

Founders Circle (\$300-\$499.99)

Gordon Graham	1956
Joseph Elliott	1958
George Collier	1961
Erich Smith	1971
Michael Busald	1972
Stephen Melonides	1988
Matthew Hartnett	1992

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

W. Blew	1951
J. Allan Campbell	1951
Jack Earl	1953
Ronald Snyder	1956
Philip Trego	1965
James Gage	1969
Darryl Holst	1969
George Fleet	1971
David Ponzio	1971
Raymond Sloan	1972
Thomas Luken	1972
Gary Liefer	1974
William Green (IK)	1976
William Bourke	1981
William Heston	1981
Larry Taylor	1986

Azure Club (\$100-\$199.99)

James Love	1950
Von Ballew	1950
Ronald Pierce	1955
Edward Jordan	1955
Edward McCallum	1956
Douglas Bridges	1957
Robert Ferriday	1960
Maurice Lorenz	1960

C. Posthauer	1960	Robert Sweeney	1991
William Bender	1962	Michael Murphy	1992
R. Keith Butterfield	1963	Ian Reynell	2000

Larry Bennison	1964	Argent Club (\$50-\$99.99)	
Douglas Joyce	1967	John Patterson	1950
Terry Culp	1969	Robert Marlowe	1952
Donald Green	1969	W. Dale Guyer	1963
John Menaugh	1970	Michael Miller	1967
Michael Monkhouse	1972	Thomas Whiting	1984
Paul Robinson	1973	Frank Calamusa	1987

Larry Nicholson	1974	Other (Up to \$49.99)	
P. Steven Slonaker	1975	John McLellan	1957
George Thomas	1976	A. King	1973
Daniel Mabry	1977	Gregory Bell	1988
Thomas Martino	1979		
Randall Clark	1981		
Tom Bloodgood	1981		
John Rogan	1983		
Josef Lorenz	1985		
David Hill	1986		
Michael Cooney	1990		
Andrew Beauchamp	1990		

Welcome Our Newest Phikeia Class!



We're excited to guide them into becoming the greatest version of themselves!