

Brother to Brother



NEWSLETTER OF INDIANA ETA, SIGMA PHI EPSILON AT INDIANA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY • FALL 2001

Update from the Alumni Board:

Building On Our Reputation

The Indiana Eta Alumni board has been extremely active this past summer. We are in the initial phases of developing a Five Year Plan, and Business Plan, to support the plan. However, I would like to focus on what we have done this summer. Plans are great, but results are what our actives and alumni deserve. During this year's election, the issue of long term commitment and overall development of the alumni board was vigorously discussed. The result was members of the board were elected to positions of responsibility based on their commitment to five years. All elected agreed to this. Upon election we quickly got to work on our most urgent needs. Those needs were summarized as Financial stability, Communication to our alumni, and House improvements / future needs.

First we had a desire to solve the nagging problem of uncollectible debt owed to the alumni board. In conjunction with this issue was the relationship that develops as landlord and renter. We believe as an alumni board that we can provide more to the active chapter than just a house. After investigating options available, the alumni board decided to utilize Omega Financial for collecting revenue from the active chapter. This has allowed us to give services such as real time bill status to both actives and alumni. We are expecting better documentation of cash flow and more predictable budgeted expenses. In the past we waited until the year was over before investing in housing improvements.

Next we felt that our alumni need to know what we were doing. This has been a weakness for several years. This newsletter is the proof that we are serious about the future of our organization. To move ahead we will need everyone's assistance in one

form or another. Remember the statement "We are not resting on our reputation, We are building one." Over the next few years please keep that Building word in mind. To deliver this newsletter we contracted with Gilchrist Alumni Management Associates. They are involved with Sig Ep and other chapters around the country. The addition of this organization as a resource will pay quick dividends. They are currently scheduled to give the active chapter risk management training. They are also experienced not only in the Balanced Man program but also with alumni board operations. The board sees this relationship, as an opportunity to develop the competencies required for future development.

Finally the board had the desire to invest in improving conditions in the house. We renovated the bathroom on the second floor. Additionally supplies were given to actives during the summer for

several rooms on the first floor. Kitchen walls were repaired along with the game room. We are very grateful for the involvement of the undergraduates during the summer. Brian Cigal coordinated surface improvements to the driveway. Currently Mark Biedak is developing a priority list of needed improvements. As resources become available these improvements will be made.

Finally I would like to thank the entire alumni board for their efforts. I can feel the momentum shifting from discussion of issues, to actions that are achieving results. One step at a time we will effectively lead the organization to serve the alumni and undergraduates of this great organization. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Alumni Board President.

Fraternally

Peter Adgalanis,
Indiana Eta Alumni Board President

Balanced Man Program Moves Ahead as School Policy Changes

Full semester is well underway here, bringing with it a new batch of Freshman to Indiana Tech and sparking up talk of Rush and recruiting new members. This year will be little different though. Based on mid-term grades, first-semester students will be eligible to join fraternities.

Along with the completion of the new campus housing last year, this is exciting news for Indiana Tech as well as Indiana Eta. Historically, Fall pledging

has had relatively low participation, with the bulk of the new blood joining in the Spring.

But with the changes at Tech and the successful implementation of the Balanced Man Program, the influx of new membership could be leveled out, making fraternal life a little more stable.



The State of the Fraternity



The 2000-2001 school year has seen its ups and downs for the Indiana Eta chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon. We have seen our chapter more than double in size. We jumped from thirteen members in September 2000 to thirty-three members by May of 2001. On the downside we have seen many of our leaders graduate. At the beginning of this current school year, the executive board has a grand total of one semester experience. But on the bright side, that gives high hopes for the future.

Academics have faltered but like I said before, there is hope in the future. The VP of Member Development worked closely with the Dr. Steve Dusseau, the Vice President of Academics of Indiana Tech to restructure our chapters academic program. So we look for a positive jump by semester end.

With seven graduates and a few actives lost to transfers and other reasons, recruitment is priority ONE. Our goal for the end of the semester is to double our chapter size again. This would bring us to

forty-four members.

Another primary focus this year is community awareness. A big struggle of fraternities everywhere is getting rid of the "Frat Boy" image. Indiana Eta is averaging two philanthropic events a month. Regionals and Conclave came and went with Indiana Eta taking home some serious awards. Awards like the Man Power award (top manpower on campus), Academic Award, Intramural Award, and Winners Circle (awarded to those chapters that have both top GPA and top Man Power on your campus), but unfortunately no Buchanan Cup. With all of the hard work set in place in the next two years, we have a great shot at receiving that award next conclave.

Now that chapter business is taken care of, I pose a question to you alumni. A problem that active brothers are facing as they get ready to graduate is that they have no experience in their major. I ask that all members of the Indiana Eta chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon stick together. The house that we all love and care about bonds us as one. The question that I pose is

this: Are there any Alumni that can offer any assistance in the way of internships, Co-ops, business contacts or just any business advise to an active member of this chapter? As you all know, getting your foot in the door of a business in your major is extremely difficult. I personally would love to see this chapter succeed in that way more than any other.

Contacting the chapter is fairly simple, and here is a list of key contact numbers and e-mail addresses:

Fraternity House Phone: 219-423-1721
My e-mail address: dspelman@lycos.com
Chapter counselor Chris Dickson's e-mail address is: Dickson@indtech.edu

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

David Spelman,
President

Indiana Eta – Sigma Phi Epsilon



NEW MEMBERS

Irvin (Joe) Minor
Gary, IN
Business Management
Sophomore

Chris Wright
Grand Rapids, MI
Human Resource Management
Freshman

(Since this is a new school year, we have only two new members as of right now, but as the semester rolls on, we expect to have more.)

Indiana Eta Undergraduate Officers

President
David Spelman
Senior, Tecumseh, MI
Marketing

VP Programing
Chris Cramer
Junior, Saunemin, IL
Computer Information Systems

VP Finance
Mike Runions
Senior, Chicago, IL
Human Resource Management

VP Recruitment
Yianni Kozmakos
Sophomore, Baltimore, MD
Industrial & Manufacturing Engineering

VP Member Development
Adam Greb
Sophomore, Chicago, IL
Computer Science

Secretary
Chris Wright
Freshman, Grand Rapids, MI
Human Resource Management

Chaplin
Jonathan Sly
Junior, Pekin, IL
Computer Engineering

Leading Your Alumni Team:

Peter Adgalanis has been elected Board President. Peter is a supervisor at the Fort Wayne General Motors Plant. He graduated from Indiana Tech in 1993 and received his MBA from Indiana Wesleyan in 1999. He and his wife Carolyn have two children, Tyler and Michelle.

Irvin Kontowsky is Vice-President. A 1993 Indiana Tech graduate, this year Irv was also among the first to receive an MBA from Indiana Tech. Irv is a Quality Assurance Manager at Damon Corporation in Elkhart, Indiana. He and his wife Kathy are expecting their first child this fall.

Barclay Hall returns as the Board's Treasurer. Barclay graduated from Indiana Tech in 1995 and works at Verizon in Fort Wayne. When asked if they will be having children soon, he and his wife Erika just laugh.

John Sims is the Board's Secretary. Having school put on hold several times

now, he hopes to return soon to finally get his degree. John is a Network Security Engineer at Cornerstone Solutions in Fort Wayne. He and his wife Tammy have two daughters, Shelby and Jenna.

Also waiting to be a father for the first time is Board Member **Justin Hoffman**. He and Shannon are expecting this January.

Meanwhile **Brian Cigal** and his wife Rocquel are expecting their second child. Chapter Counselor **Chris Dickson** still manages a slim grasp on his single status.

Elsewhere on the Board, **Michael Koza, Aaron Gregory, Jeff Woodward,** and **Mark Biedak** maintain their bachelorhood.

Robert Swindell, who, as you know, was the primary guiding force in founding Indiana Eta, rejoins the Alumni Board.

Rudy Mahara comes to us from Valparaiso to round out our team.

The 2001-2002 Alumni Board

Peter Adgalanis '93 & '98, President
(1st year back on Board)
Irv Kontowsky '93 & '01, Vice-President
(1st year on Board)
John Sims, Secretary
(1st year back on Board)
Barclay Hall '95, Treasurer
(4th year on Board)
Chris Dickson '94, Chapter Counselor
(5th year on Board)

Mark Biedak *(3rd year on Board)*
Brian Cigal *(3rd year on Board)*
Aaron Gregory *(5th year on Board)*
Justin Hoffman *(4th year on Board)*
Michael Koza *(2nd year on Board)*
Rudy Mahara *(1st year on Board) -*

Valparaiso University
Jeff Woodward *(5th year on Board)*
Robert Swindell *(1st year back on Board)*

Abbott Center Dedicated at Indiana Tech

Thirty-six years ago, Indiana Tech made a \$300 investment that's paying huge dividends today and for the future. That \$300 was a scholarship extended to Steve Abbott, a young man who had a brand-new Elmhurst High School diploma and the desire to be an engineer, but didn't have the wherewithal to attend college.

Both Abbott and Indiana Tech have come a long way since then. Abbott went on to become president, chief executive officer, and chairman of the board of Essex International Inc. The university, on the other hand, is in the midst of its most ambitious expansion and renovation ever: the \$16.5 million "Unlimited Potential: The Campaign for Tomorrow's Leaders."

It's fitting that one of the two most striking additions to the Indiana Tech campus -- the new administration building -- be named the Abbott Center to honor a man who is one of the university's most successful graduates, one of its trustees, and a very generous financial supporter.

Abbott and Indiana Tech have a commonality: humble beginnings. The college that was founded in a downtown

Fort Wayne business location in 1930 is now a thriving university steeped in a rich tradition of alumni accomplishment. The Abbott Center, the recently dedicated Pierson Center, and the current expansion and renovation of the Engineering Center stand out as testaments to the university's commitment to growth, but there's more that doesn't meet the eye.

The university plans to build outdoor athletic facilities and create green space on the land acquired to the west of campus.

Perhaps more importantly, Indiana Tech is striving to increase its endowment, so that more promising students - such as Steve Abbott - don't miss out on the opportunity to gain an excellent education.

Although the scholarship was essential for Abbott to attend Indiana Tech, he, like many Indiana Tech students today, also had to hold down a job to make ends meet. Since his father was in the horse business, part of Abbott's job on Walter Probst's farm was natural: Cleaning up after the horses.

Probst, then president and CEO of Essex, had a keen eye for potential and offered Abbott a part-time position as a

draftsman at Essex. The \$2.75 an hour in wages was good money for a college student back then.

After earning a bachelor's degree at Indiana Tech in 1969, Abbott went to work for Essex in Pittsburgh, where he also earned a master's degree in chemical engineering at Carnegie Mellon University. Abbott's hard work and dedication to Essex paid off. In 1996, he was named president and CEO and received an honorary doctorate in chemical engineering from Indiana Tech. In 1998, Essex made him chairman of the board.

Abbott recently made a \$1.2 million commitment to the university. It's the largest-ever contribution to the university by an alumnus. From the pledge, \$1.1 million will go to the building fund, while the remaining \$100,000 will be placed in a matching scholarship fund. With the scholarship fund, Abbott is challenging other alumni to create student scholarships. In addition, Abbott has been active in soliciting funds for the university from other sources.

Just Moved or Had a Promotion?

Help us keep our records up to date and share your news with your brothers.

Send an e-mail with your updates to: email to the following address:

Alumni_news_and_notes@yahoo.com

Look for the Alumni News section in the Spring newsletter.

Want to Stay in Touch with Your Brothers Electronically?

Announcing the Indiana Eta Alumni listserv. To subscribe send an email to:

Indiana_Eta_Alumni-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

We will post occasional news about the chapter, alumni and Indiana Tech. Together with the newsletters, web page and alumni events, we hope to keep you connected to the chapter, alumni and Indiana Tech.

Indiana Eta On the Web:

The active brothers have launched a new web site.

Check out the latest in chapter, alumni and Indiana Tech news at:

www.indiana-eta.org

Trash Tradition

Once upon a time, some Brothers at Indiana Eta thought it would be a good idea and a fun thing to do to go pick up trash on the side of the highway. Now, nearly ten years later, it has become a tradition and a rather popular event to help keep clean two miles of US 24 East of New Haven, Indiana. Our most recent cleanup was held September 15.

Indiana Area Codes to Change

Indiana will change the area codes for the Fort Wayne area in December from 219 to 260.

Additionally, South Bend will change to 574, and Gary will

Indiana Tech Graduates First MBA Students:

This May, for the first time ever, Indiana Tech's graduating class included MBA recipients, and of course, Sig Ep was there.

Brothers Lee MacSorely, Irv Kontowsky, and Greg Lutz were among the first group of MBA graduates.



Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity at Indiana Tech

Excellence and Dignity through Leadership

Indiana Eta Alumni Office • PO Box 350942 • Toledo, OH 43635-0942