

Brother to Brother



NEWSLETTER OF INDIANA ETA, SIGMA PHI EPSILON AT INDIANA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY • FALL 2003

Conclave Wrap Up

One thousand three hundred and ten alumni, undergraduates, volunteers, and guests of Sigma Phi Epsilon descended onto San Antonio, Texas on Wednesday, August 13. Among them, Indiana Eta brothers: Paul Litcher, Brandan Haines, Shawn Lang, and Savan Thakkar, alumni; Andy Dye, Adam Greb, George Ryan Matocha, and Tommy Le, actives. This year's conclave theme was "There's a new SigEp in town". One of the central ideas behind this theme were the words that Carter Ashton Jenkins said upon forming our fraternity: "This fraternity will be different." In fact, that point along with the concept that Sigma Phi Epsilon is a life-long experience, was hammered down with Barry Bonds like efficiency for the four days we spent there.

Held at the awesome Marriott on the Rivercenter in downtown San Antonio, the event kicked off with the Alumni Reception at the historic Sunset Station just seconds from the hotel. This gala event featured Pat Farrell (Sig Ep Alum) playing songs on the piano from Billy Joel to Jimmy Buffet while all of the guests mixed and mingled. All of our Indiana Eta brothers enjoyed this opportunity, as it was our first chance to spend with Paul and get caught up with him.

Thursday was dedicated to legislative sessions and training. Andy Dye was our delegate and went to the sessions where motions relating to the national fraternity were discussed, debated and voted upon. Tommy Le filled in as alternate. I do not want to discuss the legislation here, but in due time it should be posted to the National's web site at <http://www.sigep.com>. I, personally, attended the 'Building Your Strategic Plan (for volunteers)' session, and 'Fast Forward – Alumni Communications'. Some other options during the day were



Indiana Eta brothers who attended the 2003 Sigma Phi Epsilon Conclave

'New Member Camp', 'Carlson Leadership Academy', and a general session (required of all undergraduates) called 'Is it Worth the Risk' [dealing with the legal issues surrounding the fraternity]. That evening, suits were donned and we all attended the ritual session during which the Epsilon rite of passage [similar to traditional initiation] was presented. During the ritual session, real-world examples of virtue, diligence and brotherly love were discussed. Afterwards, the Balanced Man celebration was held in which 35-plus chapters were honored with Buchanan Cups along with three golden Buchanan cups for chapters with 5 consecutive Buc Cup 'wins'. The evening was spent with Paul Litcher discussing the current state of Indiana Eta as well as our direction for the future.

On Friday, the legislation and training sessions continued. All of the Indiana Eta members met with Paul for lunch on the Riverwalk and discussed how things were going so far. During the afternoon, several of our brothers took the opportunity to go to the San Antonio Zoo. That

evening was free and several of us dined at The Tower Restaurant, high above the San Antonio landscape in a rotating restaurant.

Saturday was a little lighter, considering it was the last day of the conference. The key event here was the Alumni Awards dinner, where five Sigma Phi Epsilon Citations [awards for achievement in a career] were presented and four Order of the Golden Hearts conferred.

The overall impression I got from Conclave is that SigEp is doing very good right now. Grades are up, more and more leaders are being produced, and the ideas and concepts of 'Sound Mind, Sound Body' are pervasive among members of our beloved fraternity. Personally, I was reminded of how much SigEp is truly a life-long experience and that volunteering and continuing interest in both Indiana Eta and the national organization is paramount to their continued success.

I hope we see more Indiana Eta members at the next Grand Chapter Conclave, August 10 – 14, 2005 at the Renaissance Nashville Hotel in Nashville, Tenn. ■

Recap from Brandan Haines:

Sweetheart Ball Great Event for All

Sw Sweetheart Ball, the fraternity's annual gathering of alumni, actives, and friends took place on April 5, 2003. The event was held at Don Hall's Guest House for the second year in a row. While it was thought that turnout would not be as good this year, for various reasons, multiple alumni from varied generations, along with spouses, actives, girlfriends, and invited guests turned out for the gala event.

The event featured the now familiar format. The invocation was delivered and dinner was had. The slideshow was then presented by alumnus Brandan Haines, who also prepared the entire thing. It was a very well received show and I received several complements on it. If you are interested in obtaining a copy, please contact me at brother-to-brother@indiana-eta.org. The awards (voted on by the active members) were then presented (see box at the right).

Dancing then followed, coupled with reminiscing, chatting and just enjoying rekindling some old friendships. About half way through the evening, a raffle was held. Tickets were purchased earlier in the evening by any attendee who was interested in buying them. The prizes included: a fifth of Jack Daniels, a night's stay at Don Hall's Guest House, a terrorism emergency response kit (including duct tape, masks, flares, etc. [provided by alumnus Jason Kohlhoff]), and a 50/50 cashraffle.

All in all, it was a very good time. If you didn't make it out for it, please try to come out to 40th in November! ■



2003 SigEp Awards

Presented at the Sweetheart Ball

Professor of the Year – Steve Malloris

Active of the Year – Jamie Baugh

Alumni of the Year – Brandan Haines

Scholar of the Year – Steve Eckhart

Athlete of the Year – Bo Biliboaca

Recruiter of the Year – Reid Hochstedler

Queen and Court – Mandy Filosa,

Heather Green, Trish Barton,

Irene Castillo, and Brintani Wallace

Corporation Meeting Summary

At the Corporation meeting the morning of Sweet Heart Ball, several board members' terms came to an end. Those brothers with expiring terms were: Irv Kontowsky, Robert Swindell, and Erik Moening. Brother Mike Runions and Brother Chris Hoff were elected to fill two of the vacancies. This leaves two open positions on the Alumni Board. If you are interested in joining alumni board, please contact the

officers by emailing@indiana-eta.org

A budget for 2003 was discussed and then approved by the board.

The Corporation meeting was closed; an Alumni Board meeting began. At this meeting, several things occurred:

It was announced that Indiana Eta is first (among Greeks) in GPA, and that the chapter is above the all-campus GPA.

Discussions on the Capital Campaign,

Omega, the newsletter, and the 40th Anniversary were held.

New board officers were elected as follows:

President	Justin Hoffman
Vice President	Chris Hoff
Treasurer	Barclay Hall
Secretary	John Sims

For more information, navigate on over to: <http://www.indiana-eta.org/minutes>. Meeting minutes are posted there.

From Brandan Haines

Science Central Philanthropy

As part of achieving the goals for the semester, the active chapter held a philanthropy event at Fort Wayne's Science Central. I tagged along to help out, and snap some pictures. A group of active brothers arrived at Science Central early on Saturday morning to see what tasks they had lined up for us. We were separated into groups and went about our tasks.

Some of the things we did included: cleaning up trash around the building and parking lots, weeding around the outer wall, and watering the ivy they had growing there.

The biggest project took place along the side walk that runs parallel to Clinton Street. A group of us took to sweeping up rocks and gravel, along with raking chunks of plaster that had fallen off of the retaining wall. We all thought that we did a pretty decent job of helping make Science Central a little more attractive for the visitors that were soon to come.

After we were finished, the group that was still remaining was treated to free admission to Science Central to check out their exhibits and try to get lost in the feature at the time, A-Maze-Ing. It was a fun time, and I'm sure the people at Science Central appreciated our efforts. ■



SigEp brothers help out at Fort Wayne's Science Center

Brother to Brother

**IS THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FURNISHED TO THE ALUMNI AND ACTIVES OF
INDIANA ETA OF SIGMA PHI EPSILON AT INDIANA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
FALL ISSUE 2003**

Editor: Brandan Haines

Submissions for content can be sent to tobrother-to-brother@indiana-eta.org.

The next issue of Brother to Brother will be put together in late November.

If you would like to submit something, please do so by November 21.

You should receive the Winter BtB in December or January.

Thanks to Tommy Le for assistance on the Sigma Challenge portion of this newsletter.

Hammer Line Through the Ages

Are you in the branch of the Krebs line under Chris Dickson? If so, be aware that John Kosmakos is planning a "Hammer Line" dinner the same weekend as Sweetheart Ball next year.

There are 49 or so of us, so we'll dress up in our finest for a formal dinner at one of Fort Wayne's premier restaurants. We'd love for the Big Brothers pick up the tab for Little Brothers, and details will follow in upcoming newsletters.

If you would like to RSVP now, send it to John @ JuanKoz@aol.com. Reservations will be accepted through January 31, 2004 and we will tentatively plan on a date of Friday, April 16 for the dinner.

From Brandan Haines and Paul Litcher:

Founding Brother Robert J. Swindell

Brothers, once again I am charged with the task of putting to words the thoughts, memories and emotions that fill us as we have recently lost another of our Founding Fathers.

Brother Robert Swindell passed away on Monday, September 8, 2003. Brother Swindell was a founding father of Theta Tau Upsilon at Indiana Tech, and as you may recall, Theta Tau Upsilon eventually became the Indiana Eta Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon.

Brother Swindell was always an active alumnus. He served as Chapter Counselor and on the Alumni Board for many years. He was also awarded with the 'Distinguished Alumnus' award by the national organization. In addition to his service to Indiana Eta, Br. Swindell also served as a Chemistry Professor at Indiana Institute of Technology for 35 years. And just a few years ago, he established the Balanced Man Scholarship at Tech for people who exemplify the ideals of Sigma Phi Epsilon's Balanced Man.

By a happy accident, I sent word of Br. Swindell's passing to the National at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sigep-talk/>. The response from the brothers on the list is remarkable, and reminds us how broad and deep the ties of fraternal love are. Br. W. Davenport had this to say "Dr. Swindell was apparently exemplary of our cardinal principles because he gave not only to SigEp but served as an example to probably hundreds and thousands of other students - certainly not for reward or recognition but because he loved what he taught and loved the students he taught and mentored." Br. Dave Calderon said "Brother Swindell will be missed, but his legacy will undoubtedly live on in the

lives that he touched."

I, personally, have a story about Br. Swindell that I would like to share. I first met him while I was pledging. Having been an IS major, I had never ventured into the Dana building and didn't know a whole lot about him. At that time, Robert was still teaching and took our entire pledge class out to dinner. During that dinner, he recounted the tale of how he got the initial group that would become Theta Tau Upsilon together. I also vividly recall stories of how he had to fight to get the campus to let him do it, as well as the fight after it started to gain acceptance and a place of dominance on a campus with a decent number of fraternities on it. And then in the summer of 1962, Sigma Phi Epsilon's National Organization was contacted. On January 20, 1963 Theta Tau Upsilon officially became a colony of SigEp; and ultimately, on November 2, 1963 the first 39 men of Indiana Eta were initiated. After our dinner with Br. Swindell, I wrote the following in my pledge journal: "One further thing I learned today is that from the beginning it has been an uphill battle for SigEp; and for nearly thirty years people have fought for it. I vow I will do the same." I can only hope and pray that I have lived up to that vow in Br. Swindell's eyes.

In constructing this article, I contacted several alumni and actives for comments about Brother Swindell. Paul Litcher (S' 95), gave me the following story: "Professor Swindell's dedication to Sig Ep included talking to my parents for over two hours when I told them I received a bid to join a fraternity. My mother informed me that this conversation removed the fears they had at me joining.

Then when I had him in chemistry, he used to run very late night study sessions both at our fraternity house, and his personal house to prepare us for the tests--especially his finals. In the winter, after a snowstorm, he would invite some of us over to his house, and after we shoveled him out he would tell us stories about the fraternity until late at night."

Paul continues: "At the 1985 San Antonio Conclave, Brothers Marshall and Swindell took me out for a very fancy dinner, starting what I consider an excellent tradition of the Alumni taking the Undergraduates out to eat at the Conclaves. He introduced me to all the Alumni that I stay in contact with 'til this day. Alums such as Dean Duncan, fellow chapter brother of Swindell's and notorious bridge partner and opponent, who in the 1960's served on our Alumni Board which help us found the Chapter."

"Swindell, as almost all the chapter brothers could attest, would take the entire chapter out to a nice steak diner after initiation. Helping us learn to celebrate the growth and continuation of the dream he help start so long ago. I can still remember the 3/4" to 1 1/2"" thick steaks at the steak house at Club Olympia's Pool, he let us eat. And who could forget how Swindell would show up to house projects dressed in his usual suit to supervise both the undergraduates and the Alumni working hand in hand. Especially when the 3rd floor was remodeled so it would not snow through the walls, or the front of the house so it would not fall off one night when we were having bed races."

Paul concludes: "For this and so much more, I will truly miss Brother Robert J. Swindell." ■

Fallen Brothers – Matt Johnson, Active

The lifeblood of our Fraternity has been shed,
for a son of Sigma Phi Epsilon has bled red.
This moment one brother's journey is over,
for his life has been clovered.
Sig Ep honors him proudly so,
for his loyal services faithfully done though.
His heart ceases to beat,
for him brothers weep.
A brother of the Golden Heart has been taken,
A brother of the Golden Heart has been taken.The

Brotherhood of our Fraternity moves on,
for which a Sig Ep's day is never done, and must go on.
A Sig Ep's day is full of strife,
for strife prepares us for life.
The mourning still goes on,
for it gives us strength to pursue on.
With unity the Fraternity will flourish on,
for brothers we are and always live on.
Brothers of the Skull and Crossbones continue on,
Brothers of the Skull and Crossbones continue on.

Balanced Man Minute: The Sigma Challenge

The Balanced Man program is separated into four main challenges:

Sigma, Phi, Epsilon, and Brother Mentor. A fifth phase reserved for especially diligent and virtuous brothers who perform a significant amount of community service, called 'Fellow' is also a part of this program. This particular Balanced Man Minute will focus on the Sigma Challenge.

The Sigma Challenge is designed to be a foundation for brotherhood. It is intended to last approximately four to six meets, and the men in this challenge will meet once a week with their challenge coordinator to give progress updates as well as gather information. Some of the pieces of this particular challenge are relatively mundane: send your registration form in, receive your Lifetime Responsibility of Brotherhood book, and participate in the Sigma Rite of passage. All of these steps, regardless of being mundane, are the core of the foundation that an undergraduate will build his Sigma Phi Epsilon experience on.

Part of the Sigma Challenge is focused on a member's responsibility to self. A Sigma must: develop written goals, gain time management ability, and be conscious of health and physical fitness. The second part of the Sigma Challenge is a responsibility to the chapter. A Sigma must: learn local chapter and national history, meet and get to know the brothers, learn about chapter operations (executive board and chapter meetings), participate and learn about the rituals they are privy to, and participate in team building exercises. A third piece is responsibility to community. A Sigma must: participate in a local service event (philanthropy) and learn about the campus and local area. Upon successful completion of these requirements, a Sigma recruits his Phi mentor and gets ready to take on the next challenge in the Balanced Man Program.

One of the best things about the Balanced Man program is that it can be customized and for the chapter implementing it. For example, in the Indiana Eta chapter we stress the memorization of such songs as Drink Beer, SigEp Raiders, and the SigEp Sweetheart song. We also have new members learn the Hollies' He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother. Furthermore, for the meeting and knowing

of brothers, we have 'interview books' and require that new members have a certain number of interviews to be finished in order to pick his big brother.

Upon entry into the Sigma challenge a brother is given all rights and privileges of full brotherhood and membership in

Sigma Phi Epsilon. The only difference that separates the Sigmas from the Phis, Epsilons, etc. is his knowledge of the ritual. For more information on the Sigma challenge or the Balanced Man Program, go to the National's website at: <http://www3.sigep.org/bmp/>

Join the Celebration Marking 40 Years of Brotherhood

This year marks the 40th year of the Indiana Eta Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon. In recognition of this, all brothers of the Indiana Eta Chapter are invited (with a guest) to the 40th anniversary celebration to be held on the weekend of November 1st, 2003. Festivities will be held at the Grand Wayne Center in Fort Wayne, Indiana which is a part of the downtown Hilton.

The itinerary for the weekend is as follows (times are approximate):

Friday 31 October 2003

Any time Open house at the Fraternity house
7:00–11:00 P.M. Reception at the Grand Wayne Center

Saturday 1 November 2003

9:00–10:00 A.M. November Alumni Board meeting at the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity House
10:00 A.M.–12:00 P.M. Tours of the updated Indiana Institute of Technology campus
11:30 A.M.–1:00 P.M. Picnic/Barbeque at the Fraternity house
1:00–4:00 P.M. Sporting activities depending on weather (bring a softball mitt)
5:00–6:00 P.M. hors d'oeuvres
6:00–7:30:00 P.M. Dinner
7:30–8:30 P.M. Presentations/Entertainment
8:30–1:00 P.M. Music/Dancing

Sunday 2 November 2003

10 A.M. Undergraduate Chapter meeting

LODGING: Discounted rates are available through October 13th at \$84/night plus tax. Call the Hilton directly at 1-800-HILTONS and specify you are with the Sigma Phi Epsilon group. Check-in at the Hilton starts at 3:00 P.M. on Friday, with check-out being at 11:00 A.M. on Sunday.

Want to Stay in Touch with Your Brothers Electronically?

Join 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: www.indiana-eta.org

Just Moved or Had a Promotion?

Help us keep our records up to date and share 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 next newsletter.

Alumni News to Share?

Are you interested in the happenings of your pledge brother? Maybe you haven't talked to your big or little in years, but intended to reconnect for some time. Perhaps you'd just like to hear how other alumni brothers are doing.

Indiana Eta has a significant amount of alumni, and being as how this is the alumni newsletter; we WANT to hear from you! So please, when you have a spare few seconds, drop us a line at

brother-to-brother@indiana-eta.org

and let us know about recent additions to your family, promotions or changes at your job, news, or just general gossip so that everyone who is an alumni or active of our chapter has a chance to get caught up with you. ■



Brother to Brother

Indiana Eta Alumni Office
Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity
Post Office Box 350942
Toledo, Ohio 43635-0942