



the Chi Agitator KΣ

A Publication of Chi Kappa Sigma

Purdue University • Fall 2000

Homecoming 2000

Kappa Sigma returned to 308 North Street! After a three years of celebrating Homecoming in a tent near Ross Ade Stadium, the Chi Chapter of Kappa Sigma Fraternity was able to move the pregame and post game festivities back to the Chapter House.

The turnout was excellent with over 150 alumni, family and colony members in attendance. Many eras had strong turnout numbers, especially the alumni from '66-'67 and mid 50s.

The alumni can all be proud of our undergraduate colony. They are sharp young men who all worked together to get the House cleaned up and looking its best for Homecoming. They even cleaned the sleep/study rooms and opened their room doors to allow the alumni to see all the Phase I renovations. These young men are very appreciative of the efforts and contributions the alumni have made, so they were quick to greet all the visitors and show them around the house. Many alumni commented that they have never been treated so warmly by the undergraduates.

The organized activities kicked off on Saturday morning at 9 with a brunch and individual House tours conducted by the undergraduates. The Phase I improvements are fabulous as Doug Kowert '61 did an excellent job leading the construction. The section that is completed gives everyone the sense of how great the physical improvements will be once Phase II is completed. The Kappa Sigma Chapter House will maintain its English Tutor exterior, while the interior will be truly modern facilities.

After brunch, the Chi Chapter of Kappa Sigma House Association's President, Mike Galt '82, gave some opening remarks. Walt Myers '61, who inducted three distinguished men into our Chi Chapter Hall of Fame, followed him. Our fourth inductee, Joe Harshman '48, was also honored as our first annual Man of the Year. (details on Hall of Fame inductees are on pages 6-7)

The Boilermakers dominated Minnesota 38-24. Many alumni returned to the House for a victory celebration.

It is not too early to start making your plans for Homecoming 2001. The Game is October 27, 2001 against the surging Northwestern Wildcats. Some of the hotels are already sold out. This will be a very special Homecoming for the Chi Chapter of Kappa Sigma, because it will be the formal dedication of the fully renovated Chapter House.

The Alumni of Kappa Sigma thank Dave '88 and Lori Corey and the undergraduates for putting together another successful Homecoming event.

Late Breaking NEWS

The Kappa Sigma International voted on October 9, 2000 to re-charter the Chi Chapter at Purdue University.

On February 5, 2000 Kappa Sigma International pledged 46 men into the Chi Colony. Throughout the spring, summer and fall of 2000 the Chi Colony established By-laws, conducted Philanthropy Projects, Rushed two pledge classes and completed the other requirements to receive the consideration to become a chapter. On September 27, 2000 they submitted a 600 page formal application to become a chapter of Kappa Sigma. The SEC recognized their achievements and will install the chapter on November 11, 2000.

By the time you receive this letter you should have received an invitation to the reception at the Radison Inn. Kappa Sigma alumni are also invited to attend the initiations to be held earlier in the day. Contact Tony Marks at (800) 228-7326 for details.

We would also like to congratulate the colony on pledging 30 quality men this Fall. This is the second largest pledge class on campus. On November 11, Kappa Sigma will have 36 initiated chapter members and 34 pledges.



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The Agitator

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Fall 2000

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John Wylie '83
Jeff Tyler '84
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Mike Griffin '90

Campaign Success! Thank You Brothers Success

Dear Brothers,

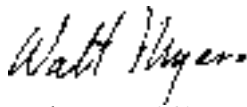
As we draw near the end of our capital campaign, I wanted to take a moment to extend the gratitude of the board to those who have given of their time, talent and financial resources in achieving the overall success of the campaign.

We have had 105 volunteers calling over 700 alumni in the last three years, and without your efforts and persistence we would never have completed one of the greatest comebacks of a fraternity in Purdue's history. Your efforts have produced \$1,800,740 in pledges from 300 alumni of which \$1,013,766 has been donated to the House Association and \$786,974 to the Educational Foundation.

We especially want to thank the following alumni for giving so much to this project: Joe Harshman '48, Alumnus Advisor, for organizing our colony; Scott French '81, Campaign Co-Chairman, for a tremendous job of coordinating our campaign with FMG and keeping our finances straight; Doug Kowert '60, Architecture and Contractor, for putting together all of the fine details to make this project happen; Matt Brozovic '82, for handling all stock transfers; John McCammon '60, for handling all the payments and pledges; Lloyd Zickert '45, for setting up our Educational Foundation and on-going battle with the IRS; and Dave Corey '88, for always putting together a great Homecoming Weekend.

We want to also acknowledge our major gift donors. These donors have all pledged \$25,000 or more: Dick Freeman '47, Gordon Binder '54, Bill Topercer '58, Walt Richey '54, Jim Hill '31, Lloyd Zickert '45, Joe Harshman '48, Bill Schulenberg '48, Bob Covalt '50, John Haimbaugh '52, Jerry Albrecht '54, Al Crebo '60, Karl Christian '71, and two anonymous donors.

The first phase of the renovation was completed in August 2000 and we hope to begin the second phase on February 17, 2001. We are finally seeing the fruition of our hard work since we closed the house in 1997. We still have a long way to go, though, as an additional \$500,000 is needed to begin the phase two construction efforts. However, we would not have gotten this far without all of your support. You should all be proud of your efforts and success in reestablishing Chi as the leading fraternity at Purdue University. I am confident that we can work together to accomplish the final portion of our overall goal. We have overcome many obstacles and objections to complete our efforts to this point and we will conclude our efforts soon with your help. We thank you all.



Walt Myers '61

Campaign Chairman

Campaign Numbers Are In, And Here Are The Results To Date

Giving Level Name	Pledge Amount	#'s Needed	#'s Recived	\$ Pledged
Founders' Club:	\$100k +	6	3	600,039
Star & Crescent Club:	\$50-\$100K	6	2	128,660
Heritage Club:	\$25-\$50k	15	12	352,340
Boilermaker Club:	\$10-\$25k	25	20	207,434
Crescent Club:	\$5-\$10k	50	57	297,424
308 North Street Club:	\$2.5-\$5K	100	33	90,570
Emerald Club:	\$1-\$2.5k	100	82	91,615
Crest Club:	\$500-\$999	50	53	27,516
Builders' Club:	\$499 or less	50	38	5,141
Totals		402	300	\$1,800,740

Chapter Celestials

Dear Friends,

I am writing with disheartening news. On July 29, Geoffrey Lewis Gessert was involved in a fatal car accident at the age of 26.

Since the spring of 1997, several members of Chi and I had the pleasure of forming deep friendships with Geoff. After his initiation in the fall of 1997, Geoff served as GP, GS, and as a devoted member of the kitchen staff for several years. Having been voted senior of the year in 1996, he graduated with a degree in industrial management and went to work for Menasha Corporation in Coloma, Michigan.

At Menasha, Geoff used his easy going personality as a foundation for an effective management style that propelled him to plant manager in just three years. Despite his performance at work, it was undoubtedly hard for his supervisors to recognize that Geoff held his family and friends above all else.

As a socialite, Geoff had a great fondness for fellowship, music, and bar games. His idea of a perfect evening included all three.

Geoff's family wanted me to extend their gratitude to all of those that were able to attend his funeral services. The large number of friends in attendance made an everlasting impression and gave them great comfort.

I would like to end with one of Geoff's favorite quotes. As so often is the case with memorials, a quote would make a fitting end to this letter. I originally heard it at my first pledge meeting seven years ago. As we took turns introducing ourselves to each other, we were asked to offer a quote that would give some indication of our personality. Geoff's quote was by John Candy in *Planes, Trains, and Automobiles*. In the movie, Candy is a laid back jolly fellow to whom good things just seem to happen. When Steve Martin asks him what his secret is, he offers the following advice: "Go with the flow like a twig in the shoulders of a mighty stream."

AEKDB, Joe Guerre '93

Jim Hill, Chi '33, died August 9 at the age of 88

We wish to recognize Jim as much for the example he provided as for his life's accomplishments. Here was a brother who had four life long passions: his family, his profession, Purdue and golf.

Like many, I knew Jim casually through his contributions to the chapter over the years. At no charge, he provided the chapter house heating system during the 1962 renovation. As part of the present fundraising campaign I got to know Jim on a more personal basis. I found him to be that rare man who's every business and life style decision was based upon principal.

As past president and chairman of the Hill Group, a mechanical contractor in Chicago, Jim saw to it that excellence was the only acceptable standard for the work his company did. The Hill Group is capable of conducting the largest, most complex piping and HVAC projects in Chicago.

His spouse, three children and 10 grandchildren reciprocated his devotion to family. They all gave Jim respect and deserved devotion. It was important to Jim that he set the standard for and gave guidance to his children and grandchildren.

Well into his eighth decade, Jim was found Jim in Ross Ade Stadium. A few years ago he funded a standing scholarship for Mechanical Engineering students. Also, the university named him Outstanding Purdue Engineer. Throughout his life Jim remained dedicated to Purdue and to Kappa Sigma.

I wish all of us had shared my good fortune to know and spend time with Brother Hill. He was an honorable, accomplished, generous man and we are so fortunate that he was our brother.

Walt Myers Chi '61

K_Σ *Celebrating Chi's*

The Founding of Chi

It was Stephen A. Jackson's charm, persuasive powers and devotion to Kappa Sigma that spurred the founding of the Chi Chapter of Kappa Sigma. In 1884, Jackson, already a Kappa Sigma member, visited members of the Upsilon chapter at Hampden-Sydney. There he helped initiate the charter members of the chapter. While doing so, he was charmed by the pledge brother, William T. Thayer. Stephen liked the boy so much that he paid a special visit to his home in West Virginia. There he met Augustus Ruffner, who was a friend of William Thayer. Jackson successfully convinced the boys to transfer to Lafayette, Indiana. Together Thayer and Jackson installed the Chi Chapter on the Purdue campus. Shortly after, they initiated Ruffner '1885 who became Chi's first brother and Grand Master. By May 15, 1885, they had initiated four more brothers: Michael Steel Bright, Oscar and Ulysses Mutz and James Sidney Body.

Young and energetic, these founding brothers quickly began planning and organizing activities to ensure the success of the chapter. It was under their supervision that the chapter thrived and became the first of any fraternity in Indiana to maintain regular meetings.

Like today's members of Chi, the founding members were ambitious, enthusiastic and ready to extend their services to others. The founding members and some later members were instrumental and largely responsible for starting the Kappa Sigma chapters at Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Cornell and Penn State.



Opening the Doors

It was in November 1922 after 12 years of hard work, that the brothers at Chi were finally able to open the doors to their new red brick house. In 1910, the Chi Chapter House Association was formed and every initiate promised to donate \$100 to help fund the house. The house association's work was successful and by 1915 they were able to purchase the lot that Chi now calls home. It appeared that the house was well on its way. However, with the start of the war the House Association soon became defunct. It was in 1919 that the chapter resumed its work and reinvested interest in the building of the house.

In 1921 the chapter took action. The brothers initiated a high energy, labor intensive campaign for funds. They spent hours calling, putting together mailings and organizing fund raising campaigns. They were successful! By June 1922, the chapter house was being built, and by November 1922 the brothers were able to move in. To celebrate, the house was opened with a series of three receptions where more than 600 guests were entertained.

Homecoming 2000



A Salute to the Founders

In 1896, the thriving chapter of Chi, unable to purchase a house, moved into new quarters. It was there that they were able to revel in their success in the “elegant Dancing Hall” and several smaller, well-furnished rooms. Shortly after moving into their new quarters, the brothers put the dance hall to use and threw a party to celebrate the strong foundation, generosity and support of their founding brothers. It is in this same spirit that we recognize our founders this Homecoming 2000 with a *Poem for Founders’ Day* by Charles C. Mierow.



*Sing we our ancient mother, Bononia,
Mother of Men,*

*Crowned with the glory of Letters,
training youth now as then*

*When in the new dawn of learning her sons,
in their zeal to be free,*

*Robbers and tyranny spurning, gave life,
Kappa Sigma, to thee.*

*Sing we the Five Friends and Brothers-
McCormick and Arnold and Boyd*

*Rogers and Frank Nicodemus- men of true
worth unalloyed,*

*Who, in the days of our fathers, by learning
and fellowship, too,*

*Have brought to our colors new lustre, and
founded our order anew.*

*Sing we our loved Kappa Sigma,
sing we the Crescent and Star;*

*Green White and Scarlet our colors-
fame yet shall carry them far.*

*Many, the sons of one mother,
united as brothers we stand,*

*Semper-Bononia docet-
these give us a long life in the land.*

Man of the Year: Joseph Harshman '48



Joseph Harshman '48 made a huge difference in our chapter's current and future success. Working above and beyond the call of duty, he has found solutions where others would have found only problems.

Before he retired, Joe worked for Parke-Davis where he had a successful 38 year career as a sales representative. Loyalty is one of Joe's key attributes and he stayed with Park-Davis for his entire career despite opportunities with other companies. He says they took good care of him, and he enjoyed working for them immensely. He was awarded numerous sales awards for his work during his time there.

Joe married Beneta in 1957 and they have five children: Kemp, Mark, Debbie, Malcolm and Suzy. He participated in the Boy Scouts with his sons and received the Silver Beaver Award and the Silver E Award while active with the Explorer Scouts.

Joe graduated with a Bachelors in Bacteriology, something that surely helped in his career. While an undergraduate, he was a reporter for the Exponent. He served as the Grand Scribe of the chapter and Pledgemaster for some time. He also edited the Chi Agitator. He credits his brother Jack as being the person who brought him into the house and showed him what the chapter was all about.

As an alumnus, Joe is a part of the President's Council, the John Purdue Club, and a Purdue Alumni Association as a lifetime member. He has been the Chapter Advisor for Chi Chapter since September 1999. He says that being the Chapter Advisor is rewarding and is glad that the members of the alumni association are extremely interested in providing a good experience for the undergraduates akin to what it used to be like when he was a student.

Joe says the best thing about Kappa Sigma are the friends he made as a young man that continue to thrive to this day. He loved the camaraderie and bond of brotherhood and says that the time when you are an undergraduate is a wonderful time in life. It goes fast so "seize the day".

*“Not for
a day or
college
term only,
but for
life”*




Joe's Colony Chapter

2000 Hall of Fame Inductees

Robert Jones '61

It's a pretty safe bet that Brother Jones found plenty of relationships at Purdue University that have lasted a lifetime. Besides the members of the Chi Chapter, Robert also found his wife, Florence, who was a member of Pi Beta Phi at Purdue. Together they have two children: Scott, who is 30 and a graduate of UCLA; and his younger sister Leslie, who is 28 and a graduate of Colorado College.

Another safe bet is to say that Robert was also very busy during his time as a Boilermaker. Brother Jones not only was a member of the Chi Chapter beginning the fall of 1959, but he was also a member and eventual graduate of Purdue NROTC. Directly following his undergraduate studies, in which he received a BSEE in January 1963, Robert enrolled in the U.S. Navy, where he spent two years. In 1966 he landed his first professional job out of the water at Hewlett Packard, and remained there until 1968.

Brother Jones then joined a start-up company called Avantek, Inc., which manufactured semiconductors. During his time at Avantek, he earned an MBA from the University of Santa Clara in 1972. The company went public in 1977 and Robert was the director of marketing and sales until he left in 1980 to become an individual investor in real estate and stocks. After five years on his own, Brother Jones and three others founded Celeritek, Inc., a company that produces gallium arsenide semiconductors as well as related products for wireless communication applications. Robert retired in September of 1999.

Finally, Brother Jones says that since he lives one hour from San Francisco, 30 minutes from the ocean and four hours from Lake Tahoe, retired life isn't too shabby.

Charles L. Marshall II '61

Brother Marshall tried to put his experience with Kappa Sigma into words, but like the many who've experienced the overwhelming joy and brotherhood, he just couldn't come up with the right sayings.

"There is an affinity that is immutable, unending, and ... I just don't know how to explain it. I just don't know how to describe it," Charlie said. "Unless somebody experiences it and shares it, it is truly hard to describe the feeling in words."

Charlie, who earned his BS from Purdue in 1964, put his Kappa Sigma experience into three phases - past, present and future. He said the past is remembering the great times he spent growing up and maturing with all the brothers during those amazing college years. The present being the times he comes into contact with a brother he hasn't seen in many years and the affinity and love for one another immediately burns again. And finally, the future being the great goals and dreams he has for the current chapter.

Marshall has grown up from his undergraduate years when he needed hours of tutoring from a fellow brother just to pass calculus. He currently is the president, corporate officer and principal of various affiliated corporations of Grismer Tire Company, a 22 store chain based in Dayton, Ohio. Prior to working with Grismer, Brother Marshall was a company commander in the U.S. Army, stationed in Europe.

He has earned numerous awards for his successful career, including his garnering the status of finalist for the Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year. He is also a two-time recipient of the Better Business Bureau Eclipse Award; once for business integrity and once for customer service - marking the only time both awards have been awarded to one company nominee.

Charlie is also a family man. He and his wife Isolde have one daughter, Heidi, who is 28 and enrolled in the master's program in international business at Thunderbird.

John Prentice '66

Brother Prentice knew from the beginning that he wanted to work with money. He was born on Aug. 2, 1947 and was initiated as a Kappa Sigma in 1966, where he quickly became involved as the fraternity's treasurer. That position spurred his way into the banking world, and now, 34 years later, he is seeing the fruits of his passion come to life. Brother Prentice is the President and CEO of Forethought Federal Savings Bank in Batesville, Indiana, the town he also calls home. Before taking on the job at the bank, John served as a corporate strategist at Ford Motor Company. He also has been involved in many other arenas in his field of expertise. He has been awarded a United States Patent, as well as an Echo Leader Award from the Direct Marketing Association. Brother Prentice is a Chartered Life Underwriter, a fellow at Life Management Institute and a Chartered Financial Consultant. To go along with these positions in his career, he also partakes in a plethora of outside activities.

Brother Prentice is the president of both the Oldenburg Academy School Board, and the Board of Trustees at Batesville United Methodist Church. He is on the Board of Directors at Margaret Mary Community Hospital and is a member of Boys Scouts of America.

John and his wife Cheryl have raised a son and a daughter; Cara, who is 24 and Matthew, who is 21.

During his college days, Brother Prentice earned a BSME from Purdue University in 1969 and then didn't mind trading in his Boilermaker hat for one embroidered with an IU as he earned his MBA from Indiana University in 1973.

"I attribute more than a small portion of my success in life to the lessons I learned from my fraternity brothers," Prentice said. "After all this time, AEKDB."

Over the past few years we have been asking that brothers of Chi remember and reestablish their ties with the chapter. A strong effort has been made to increase our alumni relations and now that we are close to achieving our capital campaign goals we realize that maintaining these valuable bonds is still very important. Equally important, however, is assuring that your experiences are available to future groups of young men at Chi. Therefore, we will be beginning our annual fund solicitation this year. While we are still focused on concluding our capital campaign, the money raised through the annual fund will go towards continuing our alumni relations, specifically, newsletters, directories, invitations, special announcements and social events.

You will be receiving your annual fund request in the mail soon. We ask that you please consider a donation to this fund at that time.

Fraternally,
Scott French '81
Campaign Vice-Chair

The mailing service for this publication was the Beacon Foundation, a non-profit organization offering sheltered employment, vocational training and supportive services to adults with developmental disabilities.

Note to Parents: If your son is still attending the Purdue, this newsletter is intended for you. If he is no longer in school, please send us his permanent address. Thank you!

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