



# CELEBRATING 135<sup>Years</sup>

CHI CHAPTER OF KAPPA SIGMA FRATERNITY  
PURDUE UNIVERSITY  
OCTOBER 9, 2021

*"The future is veiled in mystery, but the past is an open book  
from which all may read."*

-Purdue Debris, 1889



# WELCOME

## TO THE 25TH ANNUAL HALL OF FAME & 135 YEAR CELEBRATION

Tonight, we celebrate our beloved Chi Chapter of Kappa Sigma. The order of the Star and Crescent has a long-standing presence at Purdue University. On March 15th, 1885, Chi officially became a part of Boilermaker lore. Not even two decades removed from the confluence of the five friends and brothers in Charlottesville, VA, Chi came into existence under the guidance of Stephen Alonzo Jackson. We were 22nd Kappa Sigma Chapter and the first established in the Midwest. Although Chi was not the first fraternity established at Purdue, we took the lead in pulling social fraternities out of the cloak of darkness on the Purdue campus. Throughout the years, Chi defines the Purdue experience for thousands of young men. We have produced leaders on campus and in life. Our Chapter House at 308 North Street serves as a landmark, held in the same regard as University Hall, The Engineering Mall, Ross-Ade Stadium, Mackey Arena, and even Harry's Chocolate Shop by our alumni. Today we reflect on our achievements and look forward to our bright future.



### THIS YEAR'S HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES ARE:

Walt Eversman '56

David Danner '67

Kevin Lichterman '01



# PROGRAM

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## WELCOME

Jeff Kamm '00

## GRACE

Freddie Clarke '20

## DINNER

## INTRODUCTION

Peter Evers '09

## UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP RECOGNITION

Steve Springer '67

## STATE OF THE CHI CHAPTER

Kevin Boes '18

## STATE OF ALUMNI GROUPS

Doug Kowert '60

Vince Shissler '00

## HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Walt Eversman '56

David Danner '67

Kevin Lichterman '01

## CLOSING

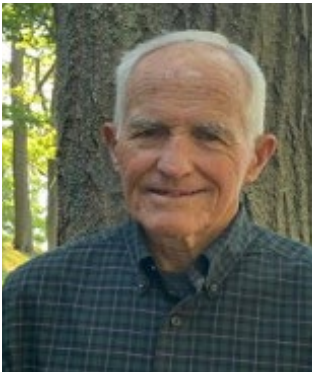
Jeff Kamm '00



## HALL OF FAME

# Walt Eversman '56

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Walt graduated Purdue in 1959 with a BS in Aeronautical Engineering. He completed an MS in Engineering Mechanics and a PhD in Aeronautics and Astronautics at Stanford University while he was working for the Lockheed Missiles and Space Company. Walt's academic career started in 1964 as an Associate Professor of Aeronautical Engineering at Wichita State University. After ten years at WSU, he taught in New Zealand before returning to the US in 1978. Here he became the Chair of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at Missouri University of Science and Technology. In 1985, he accepted appointment as Curators' Professor of Aerospace Engineering, the position from which he retired in 2015. Walt's academic interests include aircraft structural dynamics and design, while his research primarily covered aeroelasticity and aeroacoustics. Mr. Eversman is also a recipient of the 2008 AIAA Aeroacoustics Award.





## HALL OF FAME

# David Danner '67

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David graduated from Purdue in 1970 with a degree in BSIE and MSIE. He served his country in the Marine Corps for two years, going on to develop custom software and hardware for his own company, IDEAMATICS, in 1975. To this day, Dr. Danner brings over 50 years of experience to the operations of IDEAMATICS

as Chairman of the Board, President and Consulting Software Engineer. In 1986, he founded IDEATECH, Inc., to manufacture and distribute his invention, the Ideal-Phone product. This integrated the personal computer and the telephone into a single efficient workstation. Prior to this list of accomplishments, David had the opportunity to pledge for the Chi Chapter of Kappa Sigma (1967). He served as the chapter's house manager for two years and was the campaign manager for Brother Steve Springer's successful election as Sophomore Class President. David is extremely grateful for the friendships and confidence he has gained from the Chi Chapter. His wife, Pamela, is a little sister of the Chi Chapter. They have three daughters together, the oldest being a Purdue graduate (and her husband is a Kappa Sig!).



## HALL OF FAME

# Kevin Lichterman '01

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Kevin graduated from Purdue with a BA in Communications in 2003, going to work for a small commercial real estate brokerage and investment firm based in Chicago, IL. He received his MBA with a concentration in real estate development in 2008 from Roosevelt University. After a nearly 15-year career in commercial real estate lending,

Mr. Lichterman embarked on a new phase in his career and joined American Landmark Properties (ALP). He currently utilizes his prior experience and existing network to source and lead all commercial real estate acquisitions for American Landmark Properties. During his college years, Kevin and a few guys from his dorm “were provided with a very special opportunity to bring Chi chapter back to Purdue University and mold it into the best fraternity on campus.” He can’t stress enough the importance of building and retaining your professional and personal network. Kevin could always be counted on to support the chapter in any way possible.



## HALL OF FAME

# PAST INDUCTEES

### 2020

Chris Monzel '87

### 2019

Mark McKechnie '86

### 2018

Jack Rozwat '80

### 2017

James C. Cloyd III '67

### 2016

Rich Adams II '83

### 2015

John Thatcher '67

### 2013

Mike Cline '84

### 2012

Sam Zimmerman '67

### 2011

Kent Pierce '51  
Matt Brozovic '82  
Tim Gonderman '83

### 2010

Seth Bogin '00  
Conrad Hammond '00  
James Shively '00

### 2009

Adam Fisher '59  
Michael Pursley '65  
Brad Edwards '83 (2004)

### 2008

Joel Bates '53  
Roger Mayes '66

### 2007

Dean Spencer '53  
Dale Kramer '58  
Frank Caputo '66

### 2006

Charles Aldag '52  
Sam Smith '58  
David Robinson '68  
Don Dunbar '81

### 2005

Mike Gray '54  
Dwight Abbott '55  
Bob Worrell '66  
Jeff Minner '81

### 2004

Allen Dickason '70  
Bradley Edwards '83  
Michael Griffin '90

### 2003

Ben Mottleson '45

### 2002

Daniel Evans '49  
Charles Benner '66  
David Derrick '66  
Samual Rich Tiller '83

### 2001

Gene Grotnes '48  
Bill Schulenberg '48  
John Haimbaugh '52  
John McCammon '62

### 2000

Robert Jones '61  
Charles Marshall '61  
John Prentice '66

### 1999

Robert Landis '30  
James Hunter '54  
Walt Richey '54  
Bruce Storm '56  
Eric Wenaas '59  
Michael Zachary '67  
Michael Eskew '68  
Jan King '68

### 1998

John Feinler '47  
Jack Houston '50  
Kenneth Appel '54  
Robert Schweikher '55

Alan Crebo '60

Walter Myers '61  
Ronald Yara '66  
Steven Beering '85

### 1997

Elmer Oliphant '11  
George Goodwin '27  
James Hill '31  
George Burnell '33  
Robert Keim '39  
Byron Anderson '45  
Lloyd Zickert '45  
Richard Freeman '47  
Robert Covalt '50  
Walt Houston '51  
Jerry Albrecht '54  
Gordon Binder '54  
Kenneth Bishop '54  
Daniel Meyer '55  
Russell Maier '56  
William Topercer '58  
Robert Sorensen '60

## PAST CHI CHAPTER

# MAN OF THE YEAR

2000 Joseph Harshman '48

2001 Scott French '81

2001 Mike Galt '82

2002 Robert Sorensen '60

2003 Doug Kowert '60

2004 Eric Wenaas '59

2005 Jim Milner '79

2006 Joseph Harshman '48

2007 Stuart Williams '00

2008 Mike Griffin '90

2009 Lloyd Zickert '45

2010 Gordon Binder '54

2011 William Topercer '58

2012 Steven Beering '85

2013 Mike Eskew '68

2014 Charlie Marshall II '61

2015 Steven Springer '67

2016 Ronald Tadashi Yara '66

2017 Andrew Castor '84

2018 Jim Zeitler '65

2019 James Shively '00

2020 Michael Cline '84

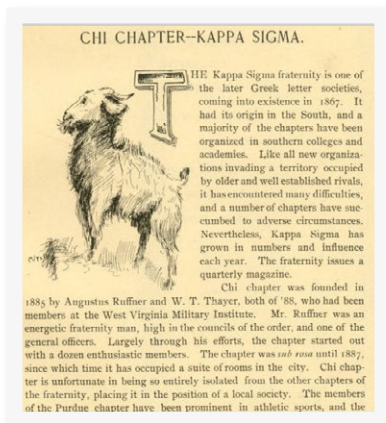


# EARLY DAYS

The establishment of Chi can be credited to Stephen Alonzo Jackson, the “golden-hearted Virginian.” Jackson had become fascinated with rapid development of the “Indiana Institute of Technology” and saw a great opportunity to grow the order in the upper Midwest. The seeds of what were to become Chi were planted at an 1884 meeting in Charleston, West Virginia, where Jackson introduced William T. Thayer to Augustus Ruffner. Ruffner had previously pledged the Kappa Sigma chapter at the University of West Virginia. Through subsequent meetings, Jackson was able to persuade Ruffner to enroll at Purdue University with intent of establishing a chapter. “At first, I didn’t want to go, as I was looking forward to a military captaincy at West Virginia” Ruffner recalled some years later. “I said that I would agree to go if Thayer would accompany me.” The two arrived at Purdue in September of 1884.



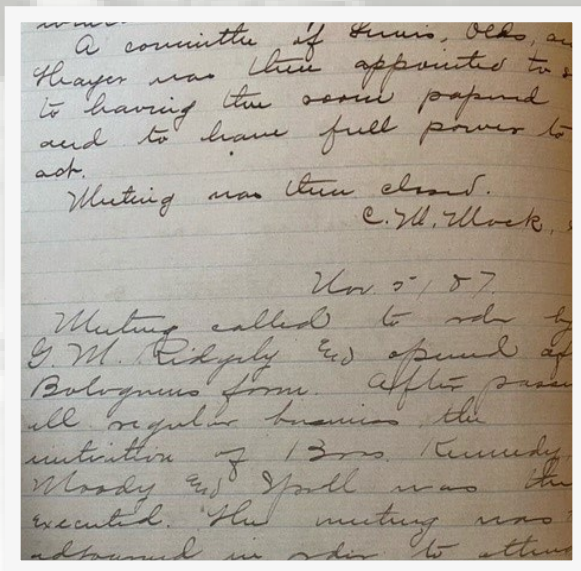
In 1884, Purdue was in its infancy. It consisted of around 300 students and 20 faculty members. The duo discovered that the university was unfriendly to secret societies. Sigma Chi had established a chapter in 1875 and existed underground. In fact, several members of that fraternity had been expelled for their involvement in a fraternity. The brothers of Kappa Sigma forged ahead in their efforts and were eventually rewarded. In March of 1885, Michael Steele Bright was initiated into the order. Ruffner soon had the four initiates required to establish a chapter of Kappa Sigma at Purdue. Before the charter arrived, James Sydney Boyd, and undergrad from Rushville, was initiated into the order. The fraternity had to operate underground during that first year, however all members of the fraternity, now standing at eight, pledged to return to school the following year.







# EARLY DAYS



do know that these early members were instrumental in growing the order. They worked to organize chapters at Indiana University, Butler University, and The University of Illinois. In the early days of the 20th century, Chi established their first "on campus" house. The Chi

Chapter took up residence at a home at 40 North Salisbury Street. The building exists to this day and is home to the Ann Tweeddale Cooperative House.

The following fall, the early members of Chi could come out of the shadows. The university faculty had passed a resolution allowing juniors and seniors to be members of fraternities. Early meetings were usually conducted in member's rooms, and in a pine forest on the outskirts of campus. The first official "quarters" of the Chi chapter were located on Main Street in Lafayette near the Tippecanoe County Courthouse. Meetings consisted of ritual work followed by refreshments, and discussion on how to advance the order. An early motto for Chi: "A few good members rather than many not as good."

There is little recorded activity of campus activity on the early days of Chi, but we

***Taken from: Early History of Chi Chapter of Kappa Sigma: Stewart Howe (Illinois '28)***

***Special thanks to Brother Bob Sorensen for providing the Chi 135th Celebration Committee with these historical documents.***



## EARLY DAYS

### Chi Confidential:

- 1889 Chapter Roster: Frank H. Gardener, Sammuel Kennedy, Charles Middleton, Daniel Royse, Harry Hicks, Arthur G. Moody, Wilbur N. Morrill, Charles A Murray John W. Parker.
- Colors: Maroon, Old Gold, and Peacock Blue
- 1915 "Who's Who" from the Debris Yearbook: Who have won trophies by the score; and work each year for many more; but socially are quite a bore?

### Boiler Bites:

- Purdue President 1885: James Smart
- Purdue enrollment 1885: 259

## 1920's

### Chi Confidential:

- The Chi Chapter Moves into the new house at 308 North Street.

### Boiler Bites:

- Ross-Ade Stadium opens on the far north end of campus in 1924 replacing Stuart Field.
- The first Old Oaken Bucket trophy game is played against Indiana.
- President Winthrop Stone is killed during a mountain climbing expedition in 1921. Edward C. Elliott takes over the role in 1922.

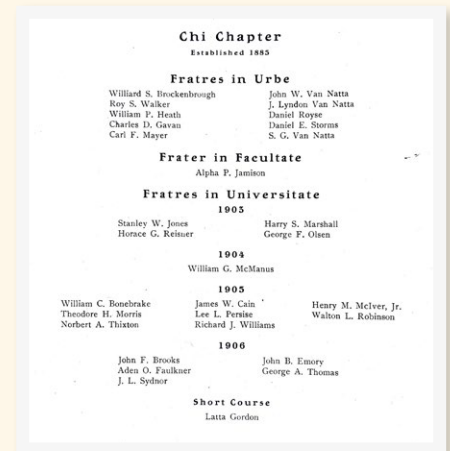
## 1930's

### Chi Confidential:

- The 1931 Debris yearbook shows a membership of 50 brothers.
- In 1939 the Chi Chapter boasts 61 brothers. T.B. Miller (Fort Wayne) serves as G.M. and a representative to the I.F.C
- Elmer Q Oliphant was a unique athlete who lettered in several sports at both Purdue and the US Military Academy at West Point. He is one of the greatest scorers in college football history, credited with 435 points in his college career – 135 at Purdue and 300 at Army and went on to play in the National Football League (NFL).

### Boiler Bites:

- The Purdue University Airport is established in 1934 as the first university owned airport in the country.
- Amelia Earhart joins the Purdue University faculty in 1935.





## 1940's

### Chi Confidential:

- During the years of World War II, the needs of Uncle Sam kept few brothers on the West Lafayette campus. The twenty or so stateside brothers scattered around campus and the house at 308 North Street was temporarily leased to the Delta Gamma sorority. By 1944 brothers were leasing room at the neighboring Delta Upsilon house awaiting victory and better times.
- Chi closed the decade out with a bang. The entire house was redecorated and refurnished. In 1948, Hoagy Carmichael performed at the house after the homecoming game. In 1949, the chapter hosted the first District Conclave to be held since the start of World War II.



### Boiler Bites:

- The Elliott Hall of Music opens in 1940 with a capacity of over 6,000.
- The Boilermaker Special makes its debut on campus in 1940 as the "official" mascot of Purdue Athletics.
- Purdue Pete makes his first appearance in the 1944 Debris yearbook.
- Frederick Hovde becomes President of Purdue University in 1946.

## 1950's

### Chi Confidential:

- Highlights of the 1950 social season include the Varsity Varieties program "We Aint got Gals" and a Dutch Christmas theme at the annual holiday dance.
- Chi wins 3 straight All-campus basketball championships between 1952 and 1955.
- October 23rd 1955 saw the great celebration of the "Lollipop Hop" and the important decision on filling the "bum room" with water or sand.
- The chapter closed out the decade by being recognized for showing the greatest academic improvement among Kappa Sigma chapters.

### Boiler Bites:

- Fraternities and Sororities compete in annual homecoming sign competitions.
- Juanita Carpenter becomes the first Purdue "Golden Girl" in 1954.
- The first Purdue Grand Prix is held on the streets surrounding campus in 1958







## 1960's

### Chi Confidential:

- A significant addition to the house opens in 1961 featuring the warm-air dorm and a new kitchen.
- 1965 started with a victory over the Sammies in the 4th annual Old Oaken Keg game. Other social highlights included the Pearl Formal with Chi Omega and a ski lodge Christmas dance.
- The final year of the 1960's was dubbed the "year of the keg" by the Chi brothers. The Chi little sisters defeated the ATO little sisters in football. Paired with AGD, Kappa Sigma added "soul to the brew" at the all-campus open house featuring "The Fabulous Flotations." A final salute to the year was erected at 1431 Williamsburg.

### Boiler Bites:

- The Krannert School of Industrial Management opens in 1962.
- Purdue defeats the USC Trojans in the 1967 Rose Bowl.
- Mackey Arena is dedicated against UCLA in 1967.
- Purdue alumnus Neil Armstrong becomes the first man to walk on the moon in 1969.



## 1970's

### Chi Confidential:

- Despite an emphasis on fraternity life and a loss of traditions such as the annual homecoming sign contest, Chi maintains its status as one of the strongest chapters on campus boasting a membership of over 80 brothers throughout the decade.





## 1970's

### Boiler Bites:

- Arthur Hansen becomes President of Purdue in 1971.
- The 1979-80 men's basketball team reaches the Final Four in Indianapolis under the leadership of head coach Lee Rose.

## 1980's

### Chi Confidential:

- Purdue President Dr. Steven C. Beering is initiated to the Chi Chapter in 1985.
- By 1989 the chapter remained strong and was proud of its traditions. From the 1989 Debris yearbook: "Having the fraternity that has been in existence the longest at Purdue is something to be proud of. The Kappa Sigma house is the oldest continually running chapter at Purdue. The fraternity has been around for 117 years, and this could only have happened through close brotherhood and the ability to continue this tradition and pass it along to the incoming pledge classes. The Kappa Sigs were the first house to occupy the island consisting of North, Grant, and Northwestern Streets. Since its charter in 1885, the brothers of Kappa Sigma have encouraged active contribution. The brother's favorite philanthropy was "Trick, Treat, Trot" which benefited local needy children.

### Boiler Bites:

- Purdue's enrollment tops 32,000 in 1981.
- President Ronald Reagan visits the Purdue campus in 1987.
- A massive beautification project is started on campus in 1988. The Purdue Engineering Mall is reimagined with the signature water sculpture at the center. Later projects included the removal of the smokestack and the construction of the Purdue Bell Tower





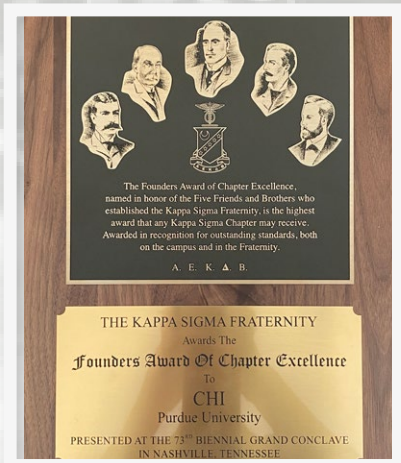
## A Sad Ending, but not The End of the Line

By the time the 1990's were well under way, the situation at Chi was dire. The chapter house was in disrepair. Many other competing chapters had built new facilities making it even more difficult for Chi to compete. Membership dwindled, and unfortunately many of those brought into the order were not dedicated to building a strong brotherhood. A sparsely occupied chapter house in a facility needing massive upgrades was unsustainable. A tough decision had to be made. Brother Doug Kowert shares a rather haunting moment. "One very strange occurrence was the "happening" after one of our "decision meetings" at the house. We were sitting in the living room. It was very windy outside. All of a sudden, one of the windows next to the fireplace blew into the house very near where we were sitting. Several brothers took this as an Omen."

It should be mentioned that the tough decision to close the chapter had nothing to do with bad behavior or other infidelities. It was a business decision as the chapter could no longer sustain itself at the current membership. Although there were brothers who had a love for the order, the daunting task of rebuilding the roster was just too much for the chapter at the time. After a sad meeting with the few brothers still passionate about the chapter, the decision to pull the charter and close the house was made. Brother Mike Griffin made a heroic effort to collect many historical artifacts and documents for safe keeping. The second oldest fraternity chapter on campus was affectively placed in moth balls.



# CHI RENAISSANCE



When school commenced in the fall of 1996, things looked bleak. Our chapter house, while still maintaining a stately presence, stood with the lower windows boarded up. The interior was littered with broken glass and crumbling plaster. Rumor has it the facility was even used for tactical training for the West Lafayette Fire Department. Thankfully, the Chi Housing Board was proactive about maintaining solvency. A loan was secured from a local bank. The following year, the facility was leased to the upstart Chi Phi fraternity chapter guaranteeing a steady stream of revenue. Despite not having a

physical presence on campus, things were beginning to simmer.

The Greek Community at Purdue in the mid 1990's had become stagnant. Membership hovered around 6,000 students and houses had become splintered between those that wished to be "Animal House" and those that wanted a more puritanical existence based on academic concentration. Groups of freshmen in the dorms soon began collaborating on establishing a fraternity that could be wholistic. A social fraternity that focused on scholarship, leadership, and fellowship was needed. Brothers

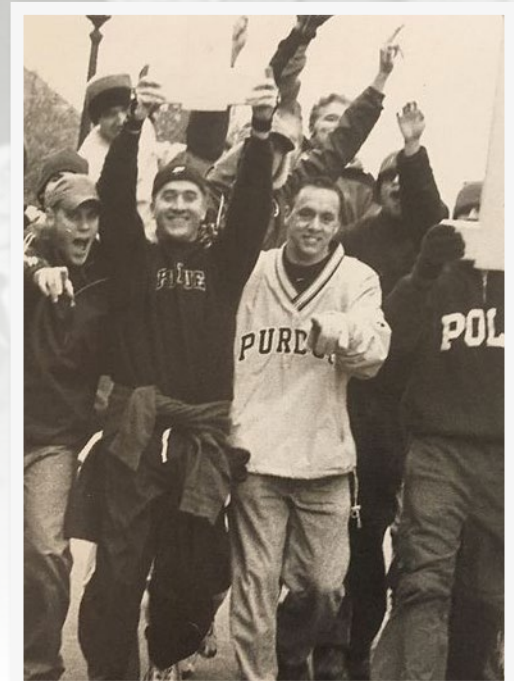




# CHI RENAISSANCE

Seth Bogin and Conrad Hammond were instrumental in organizing these groups. They eventually contacted Kappa Sigma and were eventually put in touch with a group of dedicated Chi alumni. Under the guidance of dedicated alumni volunteers like Joe Harshman and Bob Sorensen, a vision was created to reestablish Chi as the preeminent fraternity at Purdue.

The proud alumni of Chi had also been working behind the scenes. Doug Kowert recalls: "The process for reestablishing and rebuilding Chi Chapter had many parts. Several significant parts were: The fundraising dinner (with Purdue's Football head coach (Joe Tiller) as speaker); A private meeting with two key donors at that dinner; A separate "are you serious" meeting with Joe Harshman (and other senior alums); Support from Purdue President, Brother Dr. Steven Beering; and the incredibly large number of new brothers who lived in an unfinished house, pushing us to finish building ASAP!" Brothers Mike Griffin, Walt Myers, Mike Galt, Scott French, Bob Sorensen and Joe Harshman were all instrumental in these rallying efforts.



On campus, things were progressing at a hurried pace. Formal rush activities were being promoted in the Purdue Exponent. Without a house, many of these were held at venues like the pool hall in Stewart Center and the Union bowling alley. The roster of potential Kappa Sig's grew to over 50! During these times, a true leader emerged in James Shively. He would become the first GM of the fledgling colony.





# CHI RENAISSANCE



The 2000-2001 school year was an exciting time. Over the summer, the 1961 addition was refurbished and welcomed Kappa Sigma pledges for the first time in five years. The remainder of the house was unoccupied, complete with bats, broken windows, and a basement full of sand left by the Chi Phi squatters. A new two-story deck graced the back of the house. This proved to be an excellent locale for socializing and engaging in water balloon and firework “wars” with the neighboring Delta Sigs. The social calendar ballooned. The ladies of the Shoemaker Cooperative became early allies of the “new” Chi Chapter. The brothers hosted a barn dance in October. Floor parties were a weekend ritual. Rush was key. The Alpha and Beta classes were recruited. This added a number of high-quality men who would soon occupy the best fraternity facility at Purdue. After school reconvened after Christmas break, the Founding Fathers were initiated, and a celebration was held at the Radisson hotel in Lafayette. The Chi Chapter was officially back! Work soon commenced on the chapter house. The center portion was “dopped” and expanded to the north.



# CHI RENAISSANCE

The 2001-2002 school year began with Chi retaking its rightful place as a top fraternity. With house renovations complete, over 70 brothers were greeted with new sleep-study rooms connected with private bathrooms. After a Rose Bowl appearance, Chi looked forward to the football season pairing up with the ladies of Delta Delta Delta. The Delta and Gamma pledge classes were recruited. A new tradition emerged with brothers boasting documentation that “proved” they were 21 as the “After School Special” took up resident each Friday at the Wabash Yacht Club beginning at 3:00 in the afternoon until God knows when.

Chi beat the odds and became not only one of the best chapters at Purdue, but one of the most recognized chapters nationally. As the years went on, new traditions were born. During Grand Prix week, the front yard became an impressive display inflatable yard toys that garnered national attention. Chi gained notoriety for their philanthropic efforts. Most notably, an annual Christmas celebration that welcomed underprivileged children from Lafayette to the house to meet not only Santa Clause, but Purdue football players. The chapter has also worked to construct Habitat for Humanity homes in the greater Lafayette area. In the mid 2000's, Chi began fielding cars in the annual Purdue Grand Prix.







# CHI RENAISSANCE

As we head into this decade, the time has come to refocus our energy and ensure that Chi exists to serve a new generation of Boilermakers. It took a pandemic, but a loyal group of alumni and undergraduates have “circled the wagons” to refocus on the qualities that make a great fraternity. This was recognized at the 2021 Grand Conclave. Chi was the recipient of the following awards: Founders Award of Chapter Excellence (F.A.C.E.), Kappa Sigma Top 25 Recruiting Chapter (11), Outstanding Single Community Service Event, and Outstanding Communications Program. G.M. Kevin Boes brought home the Outstanding Grand Master Award. Vince Schissler (2000) was named the Outstanding First Year Volunteer and Outstanding Alumnus Advisor. This is a moment that every member of Chi both past and present should view with great pride. We look forward to a normal school year and a full house of Kappa Sigma Brothers in West Lafayette. **A.E.K.D.B.**



## CHI RENAISSANCE

### Chi Confidential:

- The Chi Colony is established on the Purdue campus in 1999.
- The chapter house his reoccupied by Kappa Sigma Pledges in the fall of 2000.
- Chi receives the Baby Bottle as a “new” Kappa Sigma Chapter in January 2000.
- The renovations of the chapter house are completed in the fall of 2001.

### Boiler Bites:

- Purdue enrollment 2000-2001: 37,871
- Martin C. Jischke named President of Purdue in 2000.
- Purdue represents the Big Ten Conference in the 2000 Rose Bowl.





**Not for an hour...a day...  
or college term only...but for life.**

**FALL 2021  
KAPPA SIGMA FRATERNITY  
CHI CHAPTER  
PURDUE UNIVERSITY**