



Sigma Phi Epsilon
 Indiana Zeta
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 Valparaiso, IN 46383

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FROM ALUMNI & VOLUNTEER CORP. PRESIDENT - JOSH LEE

SPRING 2008



Josh Lee '98

Greetings Brothers

As I write this letter, I am watching the sun set over Chicago. It has been a bright, clear February day. It's the type of day where you get a glimpse of the spring to come, and you think about stepping outside just to catch a little of the warm sun. But as the steam rises from the sky scrapers and I see the petrified, frothy peaks on the Lake, I realize its cold.

Now I wish I were still in LA, where a couple of weeks ago I was fortunate to sit down with a few of our Brothers and talk about our shared experiences and some of the opportunities to come for the Chapter. I would like to share with you some of what we talked about.

These are exciting times for us. As the University prepares to celebrate its 150th Anniversary, Indiana Zeta is more relevant to campus than ever. Through our Brothers working in the Office of Admissions, developing programming for Union Board, and serving in Student Government, we provide leadership that helps keep our University running. We model perspective in the pursuit of excellence through the Balanced Man Program's focus on developing a Sound Mind in a Sound Body (many of you recognize this ideal exemplified in the Four Pillars of a Balanced Man: Leader-Athlete-Scholar-Gentleman). And we continue to provide a social

outlet that is so important to a healthy collegiate environment.

But it is as a Residential Learning Community, or "RLC," that our Brothers excel as a model for the University. The RLC exemplifies what John Henry Cardinal Newman described as the ideal University only six years before Valpo was founded. It is a place where our Brothers come together to learn from each other, their shared experiences creating "a series of lectures in themselves." And from these lectures, our members develop new modes of thinking and foster the principles that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

Of course, although the description may be different from what we recall, the experience is not. It continues to be based on true examples of Brotherhood. The lectures are the culmination of all of the late night BS sessions, weekend shenanigans, and post-grad reunions we treasure. They are built on the traditions lived by each of us who has been guided through the doors of the house. They remind us all of the reasons why we became Brothers in Sigma Phi Epsilon.

I encourage all of you to continue to participate in this community. Neither we nor our younger Brothers benefit if we do not remain engaged in this conversation. So if you have the chance, please stop by the house for breakfast on a Saturday, a meeting on a Sunday, or any time you're in the neighborhood. Even better, join the Chapter for a ritual experience and renew the pledge we've all made to each other. And just as important (Curt wouldn't let me forget this one), please pay your dues!

I look forward to continuing this conversation with many more of you as my travels bring me to your neck of the woods.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Saturday Morning Breakfasts

Our undergraduate brothers host a breakfast at the house most Saturday mornings at 10:30 AM. You are welcome and encouraged to join them! If you wish to do so, please email Phil LaBrash (VP of Brotherhood Development) at phil.labrash@valpo.edu a week beforehand to see if its happening and so that the brothers can be prepared for you. We hope to see you there!

Join Our Website

One of the easiest ways to receive up-to-date information about Indiana Zeta is to join the chapter website. Upon joining you will have access to a "Brothers Only" section which features the chapter calendar and an open blog where alumni post updates about their lives. To sign up, simply go to <http://www.valposigeps.org/signup> and fill out the membership information. Once your information has been confirmed, you will receive an email letting you know that your account is activated and ready to use. The website is a great resource and a fantastic way to reconnect with your brothers!

Send Photos or Alumni Bios

We are starting a new feature for the newsletter called *The Alumni Corner*. This will contain a brief bio and life update from one of our fellow alumni. Please email INZetaAlumni@gmail.com if you are interested in participating. We look forward to hearing from you!

ALUMNI & VOLUNTEER CORP. EXECUTIVE BOARD

PresidentJosh Lee '98
 Vice President.....Tom Schmidt '05
 TreasurerCurt Westerhausen '78
 Secretary.....Brian Keller '05
 Chapter CounselorMike Nevergall '05
 Vice President of HousingNate Ries '99

A Moment in TIME



Five Indiana Zeta charter members at the 50th Anniversary Banquet in October 2006

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Upcoming EVENTS

If you have any questions about an upcoming event please email INZetaAlumni@gmail.com.

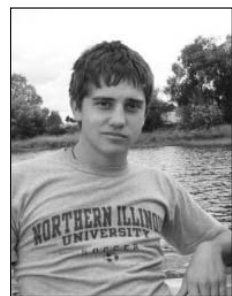
Spring Weekend

- BBQ & NFL Draft Party - Saturday, April 26th - 3:00PM
Sig Ep House
- Songfest - Sunday, April 27th - 2:00PM
Chapel of the Resurrection

Commencement - Sunday, May 18th

- Baccalaureate Service - 10:00AM
Chapel of the Resurrection
- Commencement - 1:30PM
Athletics - Recreation Center (ARC)

Homecoming - Saturday, October 11th - TBA



Matt Olsen '09

Letter from the Chapter President

In 1956 members from the Kappa Phi Tau fraternity chose Sigma Phi Epsilon to be the new name and face of their Brotherhood. Kappa Phi Tau was chartered as the Indiana Zeta chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon and over the past 50 years, we have developed into the strongest Brotherhood on the campus of Valparaiso University.

Our Fraternity is in a unique position to develop a positive working relationship as our university enters a new era. This year VU celebrates its 150th Anniversary. At the same time, we welcome Mark Heckler as the future president of our University. I have spoken with Dr. Heckler, and through our dialogue I have found him excited to work with the Greek community at Valpo. We look forward to this opportunity to forge new relationships, build new bridges and be proactive within the new administration.

As campus expects a change, so does the Fraternity system. The Dean of Greek Life, Jennifer Jones-Hall,

has announced that the University has begun to look for a 10th fraternity. There is some talk that Phi Delta Theta may reestablish their chapter on this campus. And there has also been talk of asking the Beta Theta Pi fraternity (another member of the famous Miami Triad) to take up residence on campus.

As always, we welcome increased competition. With another large national fraternity on campus, interest in Greek Life would expand. The more Greeks we have around campus the better as Greeks are proven leaders within the University and the community.

Indiana Zeta has a long and rich history. It is our fervent goal to continue our tradition of excellence while looking towards the future and building on the accomplishments of the past. Our success will be the consequence of our passion for Sigma Phi Epsilon, Indiana Zeta and the Brotherhood that continues to occupy it.



Eddy Brouch '09

Greetings Brothers,

My name is Eddy Brouch, I am a junior civil engineering student and the former V.P. of Recruitment.

Presently, I am the new alumni chair and historian for Indiana Zeta. I enjoy jazz music and playing golf in my hometown of Aurora, IL.

Now that you know a little bit about me, I would like to know a little bit about you. Unfortunately, this is hard to do since there are so many more of you than there are of me, but that is where this letter comes in.

In the past, we have struggled to keep communication and relationships open between alumni and our active members. As alumni, you have a vast amount of knowledge of the history of our house that we would like to learn from you. We hope that you are willing to come back and share this knowledge with us so that we may continue down the path of greatness that began with many of you.

In order to foster our relationship even further, there are several events to which we would like to invite all of you. First, we have begun cooking breakfast as a chapter on Saturday mornings. This is a great brotherhood opportunity, and a chance for people to relax and just hang out. Second, we would like to have an alumni presence at some of our rituals, especially the Epsilon and Brother Mentor rites of passage. The ritual of Sigma Phi Epsilon is what binds us together, whether we are actives or alumni, and we would like to continue to share this experience with you. Finally, we have several ideas to really make Homecoming an awesome week for those who are able to attend. We plan to bring back the Red Door Classic and make it an event that is easier for actives to attend. Since this is usually a time when we have a lot of alumni in town, we are also planning on performing a ceremony that both alumni and actives can participate in. This will be a chance for us all to once again remind ourselves what Sigma Phi Epsilon stands for, and the principles to which we bound ourselves to in our oath of obligation.

Also, since it is an open ceremony, our family and loved ones will be able to get a glimpse as to what it truly means to be a brother in Sigma Phi Epsilon.

Our planning committee for Homecoming has begun to meet and we will be sending out updates via our new email list serve and website. If you have not done so already, please sign in to the alumni page on our website, www.valposigeps.org. We are also working on updating and expanding our alumni database to make it as complete and thorough as possible to help with the communication. As always, if you have any changes to your address or email information, please let us know.

As we start this new year, I am very optimistic about what we can accomplish in the coming months if we work together. I am also very excited to begin working with and meeting more of you. If you have any questions, concerns, ideas, stories, etc, feel free to email me or Brian Keller at any time. I would love to talk with you and chat.

Fraternally,
Eddy Brouch

Spring Recruitment Yields 22

It is not an overstatement to say that this year's spring recruitment was a resounding success. In total, 22 men turned in their bids to join our fraternity.

Of the twenty-two, 17 were freshmen and five were sophomores. This brings the total number of Indiana Zeta actives to 75.

Eddy Brouch headed things up as VP of Recruitment. "Spring recruitment went extraordinarily well," said Eddy. "There's no doubt in my mind that the twenty-two men who joined this fall are among the best on campus."

The new Sigmas are the largest class to join in three years. As they begin to work on their paddles and get to know the

brothers they are also beginning to truly understand what being a Sig Ep is about.

"Sig Ep isn't only about partying," says new Sigma Chris Trapasso. "There is more to uphold when calling yourself a brother at Sig Ep."

The exciting spring recruitment season included paintballing, floor hockey night, a Chicago Wolves game, and concluded with the annual preference dinner at which Reverend Bill Yonker '82 spoke.

Freshmen Jarrett Mickens, a new Sigma, found himself impressed as a recruit. "I had a good time," said Jarrett. "In the end it wasn't the recruitment schedule that sold me but the brothers."

House Breaks GPA Record

The Fall 2007 semester was one of triumph in many ways for the men of Indiana Zeta, not the least of which was the cumulative grade point average of 3.402. This breaks the previous house record of 3.34 set in the spring of 2006.

This academic achievement puts Sigma Phi Epsilon well above the GPA of any other fraternity on campus, and second in the overall Greek community. In addition, it is very likely that Indiana Zeta will place in the top 20 Sig Ep chapters nationally.

Looking at the overall trends for Greek and non Greek GPA, it has become apparent in recent years that Indiana Zeta is currently performing well above the curve. The chapter GPA has been constantly on the rise since we became

nationally recognized as a Residential Learning Community (RLC) in 2003.

This change has encouraged brothers to do their best academically, and to hold each other accountable for their grades.

New measures were passed by the house early in the Spring 2008 semester to further increase brotherhood accountability. One such idea that was proposed and approved was an improvement in the mentorship program for brothers who are not meeting the standard GPA. This standard is currently set at 2.75.

The chapter hopes that these improvements will lead to even higher cumulative GPAs in the future, and further propel Sig Ep to the top of the Greek community.

A DECADE OF EXCELLENCE



The past four Buchanan Cups that Indiana Zeta has received, without a doubt, have been great achievements. Yet, a fifth Buchanan would be an even greater achievement. It would mean a decade of excellence.

The Decade of Excellence Cup is given to a chapter who has received five Buchanan Cups in succession. It is among the highest honor that the national Sig Ep headquarters gives.

"Ten years of recognized greatness is hard to achieve in a fraternity where members regularly join and graduate and priorities consequently shift," says junior Chapter President Matt Olsen.

Truly, it is a difficult task to receive a Buchanan Cup by itself, much less five in a row. A Buchanan Cup, named in honor of the past Grand Chapter President Edwin Buchanan, is given to chapters displaying excellence in academics, programming, and philanthropy.

Among the many rigorously defined guidelines is a 3.0 chapter average, a membership above 40, finishing among the top third in intramurals, and following conduct critical to maintaining a well functioning fraternity.

"A Decade of Excellence cup isn't merely a big cup to chug a victory drink from," says junior Tyler Schofield. "It has the power to lift up the Indiana Zeta actives of our times."

Indiana Zeta remains active in its quest of the Decade of Excellence Award and is fervently trying to better itself. Still the Buchanan Cup isn't a prize to push for in name only; rather it is a consequence of greatness.

INDIANA ZETA BUCHANAN CUPS WON

| | | |
|------|---|------|
| 1973 |  | 2003 |
| 1985 | | 2005 |
| 2001 | | 2007 |

SIGMA PHI EPSILON • VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY

Undergraduate Officers 2008-2009

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| President | Matt Olsen '09 | Canby, OR |
| VP of Programming | Adam Dralle '10 | Wales, WI |
| VP of Finance | Matt Schuchhardt '09 | Neenah, WI |
| VP of Brotherhood Development | Phil LaBrash '10 | Fort Wayne, IN |
| VP of Recruitment | James Nagel '10 | Bronxville, NY |
| Chaplain..... | Tim Clute '09 | Oak Park, IL |
| VP of Communications..... | Dustin Lawrence '09 | Indianapolis, IN |
| VP of RLC | Chris Jarchow '09 | Aurora, IL |